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LETTERS AND STATE PAPERS.













X

# LETTERS AND STATE PAPERS

DURING THE

## REIGN OF KING JAMES THE SIXTH.

CHIEFLY FROM THE MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS OF  
SIR JAMES BALFOUR OF DENMYLN.

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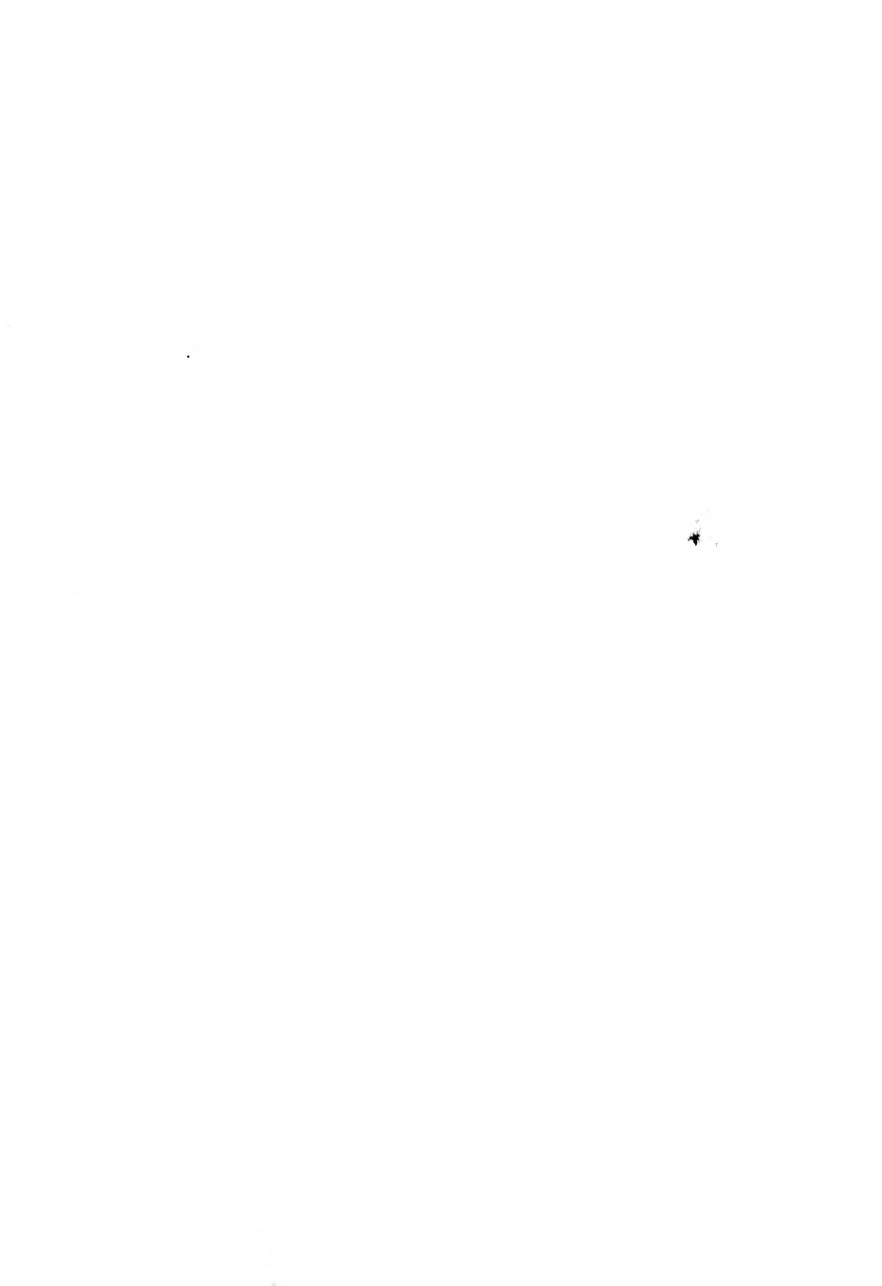
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## PREFATORY NOTICE.

THE Papers contained in the present volume, with the exception of two interesting Letters communicated by Mr David Laing, Librarian to the Society of Writers to the Signet, are taken from the Collections of the Earl of Balcarres, and of Sir James Balfour of Denmiln, Bart., Lord Lyon King at Arms, both of which are preserved in the Library of the Faculty of Advocates.

The Balcarres Papers were collected by John Lindsay of Menmuir, Secretary of State to James VI.,\* and gifted to the Library of the Faculty of Advocates, in the year 1712, by his descendant, Colin, third Earl of Balcarres. They were little known till within these few years, having neither been sorted nor arranged in any manner of way; and it was not till some time after the appointment of the present learned Librarian that they were withdrawn from their obscure recesses, and

\* He died at the age of forty-nine, on the 3d of September 1598.

made available to the public. The greater proportion of them refers to the reign of the Queen Regent, Mary of Lorraine, and includes an extensive correspondence with the Court of France, in which are to be found letters of Catherine de Medicis, Henry II., the celebrated Anne Constable de Montmorency, Diana of Poitiers (Duchess of Valentinois), and other equally distinguished persons. The letters during the reign of James VI. are comparatively few, and relate chiefly to his negotiations with foreign powers, to obtain their recognisal of his right of eventual succession to the Crown of England. They possess considerable interest, and have, with some few exceptions,\* been included in the present volume.

The Balfour MSS. were purchased in 1698 by the Faculty for L.150 sterling, no inconsiderable sum in those days. Amongst these are several volumes of Memorials and Letters of State, during the reign of King James, chiefly after his accession to the Crown of England; and it is from them principally that a selection has been made, of such papers as it was thought would throw light upon the civil and political history of Scotland during that period.

A small portion of their contents had previously been made public by Lord Hailes, in a small volume, entitled "Memorials and Letters relating to the History of Britain in the Reign of

\* These having been included in the *Analecta Scotica* (2 vols. 8vo, Edin. 1836-1837), it was not deemed advisable to reprint them here.



James the First.”\* His Lordship, adverting in his preface to the Editors of Collections of the present description, remarks that they “are generally considered as dull tasteless men, who seek no farther merit in a paper than that of being old or scarcely legible: they have, however, their pretensions to literary fame; and, indeed, those pretensions are so moderate, that it is hard to reject them altogether.

“To invention, to accuracy of composition, or elegance of style, they can offer no claim; they are not historians, they only prepare materials for history; they chuse out blocks from the quarry, and having, with much patience and toil, brought them above ground, they leave them there to be polished and arranged by more able artists.”

From a claim so modestly preferred it would be unjust to dissent, and the Editor ventures to believe, that as he seeks no higher praise than what is asked by the estimable and learned Judge, his demands will not savour of pretension. He is hopeful that much curious and valuable information has been collected together as to the state of Scotland at the beginning of the seventeenth century, and he thinks that the Monarch who then swayed the sceptre, throughout the whole of the correspondence in this volume,† displays more talent and good sense than is usually ascribed to him. Indeed, we suspect that the character of the “sapient” Monarch has not been generally un-

\* Glasgow. Foulis, 1766. Small 8vo.

† The Melros Papers, which have been wholly taken from the Balfour MSS., afford still stronger proofs of his Majesty's vigorous intellect and sound discretion.

derstood, or appreciated by the historians of his reign, and that, in place of exercising a sound judgment, they have, whilst emptying their vials of wrath upon him, too frequently been influenced by political predilections.

One very important fact seems to have been almost entirely overlooked, that when James first assumed the reins of government he found the kingdom in a semi-barbarous state, and that he left it in a state of comparative civilization. There is a remarkable letter, addressed by Lord Binning to his Majesty,\* containing a report of the substance of a speech made by him in the Scotch Parliament, in which, after making every allowance for the usual courtly flattery, enough remains to show the inestimable benefits conferred by James upon his country. He says—"Omitting to particularize the generall benefites done to oure people in England and Ireland, I schew that the blessingis of justice and peace, and fruttis arysing thairof, did so obleis euerie one of ws, as no thing in oure power could equall it; desyring that it might be remembered, that whairas the Ilanders oppressed the Hielandmen, the Hielanders tirannised ouer thair Lawland nighbours; the powerfull and violent in the in-cuntrie domineered ouer the lyues and goodes of thair weak nighbours; the Bordourars triumphed in the impunitie of thair violences to the portes of Edinburgh; that treasons, murthours, burningis, thiftis, reiffis, hearschippis, hoching of oxin, breaking of milnes, destroying

\* 7th March 1617. Melros Papers, vol. i. p. 270.

of growand cornis, and barbarities of all sortes, wer exerceed in all pairtes of the cuntrie, no place nor person being exemed or inviolable, Edinburgh being the ordinarie place of butcherlie reuenge, and daylie fightis; the paroehe churches and churchie-yairds being more frequented vpon the Sounday for aduantages of nighbourlie malice and mischeif nor for Godis service; nobilmen, barons, gentilmen, and people of all sortes, being slaughtered, as it wer, in publict and vncontrollable hostilities; merchandes robbed, and left for dead in daylight, going to thair mercats and faires of Montrois, Wigton, and Berwick: ministers being durked in Stirling, buried quick in Cliddisdaill, and murthoured in Galloway; merchandis of Edinburgh being waited in thair passage to Leith to be maid prisoners and ransomed; and all vther abominations, which settled be inveterat custume and impunitie, appeired to be of desperat remeid, had bene so repressed, puncissed, and aboleissed be your maiesties wisdom, caire, power, and expensis, as no nation in earth could now compaire with our prosperities; whairby we wer bund to retribute to your maiestie, if it wer the verie half of our hairt bloud."

This is a fearful, but we believe a true picture of the state of Scotland at the commencement of the reign of James VI. In its most important essentials it is corroborated by contemporary writers; and surely a Monarch who, in the course of a few years, could, by his energy and perseverance, put down anarchy and restore order, deserves something better from pos-

terity than the appellations of a *roi-faineant*, an empty pedant, or arbitrary tyrant. James had acquired wisdom in the school of adversity, and early in life had learned the absolute necessity of curbing the power of an unprincipled nobility, in whose hands he was held merely as a puppet. This object he steadily pursued, and ultimately effected; for it is worthy of remembrance, that when he quitted the land of his birth for the sister kingdom, he left behind him no powerful family whose influence and intrigues might disturb the peace and prosperity of the commonwealth.\* His adroitness, too, in the measures he adopted to ensure the support of foreign powers, in the event of the succession to the Crown of England opening to him, evinces great foresight and wisdom; indeed, so anxious was he to secure the co-operation of every one that by possibility might be able to assist him in the objects he had in view, that even the petty Italian Princes were conciliated, and trustworthy persons privately sent to propitiate them.† Nor is it the least remarkable feature in the matter, that these multifarious negotiations were carefully concealed from the knowledge of the vigilant and jealous Elizabeth.

James has been sneered at by his enemies for his theological acquirements, which are admitted at all hands to have been con-

\* Whatever may have been the real truth of what is commonly denominated the Gowry Conspiracy, there can be little doubt that James was not sorry that an opportunity had occurred by which a family so powerful for wealth, influence, and talent, could be put down.

† It was these secret and mysterious negotiations with Catholic potentates, that gave rise to the notion of the King's inclination for Popery. The Editor has elsewhere observed, that James was too fond of power himself to think of parting with any portion of it to the Pope.

siderable; but his knowledge of the principles and practice of laws in general, and especially of those in Scotland, is not so generally known. There is, however, an existing memorial of his extraordinary legal ability in the award pronounced by him upon the mutual claims of the heir-male and the bastard son of the last Lord, to the Barony of Sanquhar.\* In this case there was a diversity of opinion, and of four of the first lawyers in Scotland, two were on one side, and two on another. His Majesty, who liked nothing better than settling a disputed point, undertook the final arbitrement of the cause; and the result of his deliberations may be found in an argument which, for soundness, learning, and eloquence, will not easily be matched.

We trust our readers will forgive us for these hasty observations in favour of a Prince whom it has been very much the fashion to run down and ridicule; and we shall conclude them by observing, that although we do not pretend to justify all his measures, or to assert that his character was free from blemish, still it is our conscientious belief that justice has not been done to him in regard to his Scottish administration, which was generally wise, salutary, and efficient.†

The Melros Papers, presented to the Club by the President, and the present volume, contain by far the greater part of the

\* See Abbotsford Miscellany, vol. i.

† D'Israeli, the author of the amusing "Curiosities of Literature," has vindicated the English government of his Majesty, and we think successfully, in "An Enquiry into the Literary and Political Character of James the First." London, 1816. Crown 8vo. As usually happens in vindications, the author is carried away by his subject; but still, in the main, he is evidently right.

more important portion of the Balfour MS. relative to the time of James the First. But there still remains in manuscript what must be considered a most valuable addition to our memorials of the time,—the correspondence of Archbishop Spottiswood, the Church Historian, and of other eminent churchmen;—these documents, which relate much more to the civil than to the ecclesiastical history of Scotland, would supply many deficiencies, and form a most suitable sequel to the preceding Collections.

The reader will doubtlessly be struck by the sycophantish manner and abject style in which the Sovereign is uniformly addressed, nor will he overlook the profusion of idle protestation and laudatory expression in which most of the writers indulge in their correspondence; but he must not infer from this any unusual or uncalled for subserviency. It was the custom of the time; and if he has the curiosity to look into the “Academy of Complements,”\* the text-book of the courtiers of the seventeenth century, he will find most of the “Superscriptions” and “Subscriptions,” as they are termed, that occur in the present volume. Thus, the “superscription” to the King is, “To the most Sacred, most Gracious, most High, most Mighty, most Puissant, and Victorious Monarch, his Majesty of Great Britain.”—To a Pa-

\* See “The Academy of Complements, wherein ladies, gentlewomen, schollers, and strangers, may accomodate their courtly practice with gentle ceremonies, complementall amorous high expressions, and form of speaking or writing letters most in fashion. A worke perused, exactly perfected, every where corrected, and enriched by the author with additions of witty poems and pleasant songs.” 7th Edition. London, 1646. 12mo.

tron, “ To the onely hope of his fortunes ;” the “ subscription” being, “ the honourer of your matchlesse perfections.” When addressing “ his beloved friend,” he subscribes “ your assured ;” —“ the lovingst of all my friends,” —“ yours inseperably,” —“ his highly esteemed friend,” —“ yours as I have professed.” It is unnecessary to multiply instances ; but those above noticed demonstrate that there was nothing unusual in the manner in which the various letters contained in this volume were either “ superscribed” or “ subscribed.”

The Editor regrets that two or three mistakes in the Notes, entirely of a clerical description, escaped notice while correcting the sheets for press.\* A very interesting letter, relative to the suppression of the Clangregor, which was subsequently discovered, has, instead of being placed at the end of the book, been added as an Appendix to the present desultory observations.

J. M.

10, FORRES STREET,  
1st May 1838.

\* Subsequent for subsequently, p. 67, &c. &c.

THE Selection of Papers contained in this volume will, I trust, be considered a valuable addition to the Collections already published, relative to the same period of Scottish History. I cannot, however, present them to the Abbotsford Club without expressing the obligations which I owe to Mr Maidment, for his very able and ready assistance in the selection and arrangement of them. He has undertaken the whole editorial labour, and has furnished the Prefatory Notice, and the many curious and interesting notes relating to the individuals and events referred to in these Papers: and I feel assured that the Club will unite with me in appreciating his great zeal and research in the preparation of the present volume for publication.

ADAM ANDERSON.

EDINBURGH,  
*1st May 1838.*



THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE AND THE LORD REGISTER  
TO KING JAMES VI

SEPTEMBER 18, 1612.

PLEIS 3OUR SACRED MAIESTIE,

The Erle of Ergyle compeiring this day befor 3oure maiesties counfaill, he exhibite ellevin of that number of the Clangregor rest-ing vpoun him be his formair accompt, who hes changeit thair names, and found caution, conforme to the ordoure. He hes a warrand grantit to him for his repair towards 3our maiestie, according to 3oure maiesties plesfour and directioun, fyngeseit vnto ws by 3oure maiesties lettre of the second of this instant, and he hes nominat the Laird of Lundy, his bruther,\* to haue a cair of the profequation of that seruice till his returne,

\* In a note of the Privy Council Proceedings in the same volume containing this letter, it is stated, "The Laird of Lundie, brother to the Earl of Argyle, being to repair to Court to confer with his brother anent the service of the Clangregour, as he pretendes, he hes nominat the Laird of Laweris to haue the charge of that seruice till his return, and vpoun Laweris acceptatioun of the charge, Lundie is to haue a license for his vpcuming."

There is a Minute of the Council Meetings, dated 8th July 1613, from which it appears, that the Earl of Argyle appeared and freely offered to the King L.22, 10s. out of every hundred pounds of the fines exacted from those who had received any of the Clangregour which should come into his hands. It is also stated, "The landislordis of the Clangregour who should haue taine the bairn's of the Clangregour off the Laird of Laweris hands," had "faulzied in that poynt, and thairfore charges are directed againes thame for payment to Lawers of the sowne of tuentie mark out of euerye merk land pertening to thame, and formerly possest by the Clangregour."

Latterly, (30th November 1613,) it was resolved, that the landlords should not be called upon to pay any contribution, provided they took the Clangregour bairns. This proposal those present agreed to; and the conditions ultimately adjusted were, that the children should be distributed amongst them according "to the proportion of their lands,"—that they should be bound to keep them, and to make them furthcoming when called for, until they were eighteen years of age, when they should be exhibited to the Privy Council, and their subsequent fate decided upon. If any of these unfortunate creatures should escape from his

who hes vndertane the charge, with promiffis to do his indevoir to bring the fame to fome fetled perfectionn. We haif had findrie conferenceis auent the bairnis of the Clangregour, and hes consultit and advifit heir-vpoun with the landiflordis, whose aduife and opinioun is, that that string fall not be tuitcheit, nor no motioun maid thereof, quhill the feruice in handis agais the men be firft fetled and brought to ane end; at whiche tyme the executioun of everie futch eourfe as falbe then refolued vpoun agais the bairnis may with the leffe difficultie be effectuat. This is all that hes bene done with him at this meiting. So, with our hairty prayeris vnto God, recommending 3oure maieftie to Godis devyne protectioun, we [reft]

Your Maiefties moft humble and obedient  
fubiectis and feruitouris,

AL. CANCELLARIUS.  
ALEX<sup>R</sup>. HAY.

Edinburgh, 18 Sep. 1612.

To the King his moft Sacred and  
Excellent Maieftie.

keeper, the resetter to be bound to relieve the landlord of all "pane and danger" he might incur through his flight; and moreover, to be liable to such "arbitrall censure and punishment," as the Council should think fit to inflict. The child so escaping, if under fourteen, to be scourged and burnt on the cheek for the first escape, and hanged for the second:—if above fourteen, to be hanged at once without further ceremony.

The next day a roll was made up and sworn to by Glenurquhy and the other lairds. The landlords were enjoined to keep and present the children under the penalty of two hundred pounds Scots for the child of a chieftain; one hundred pounds for the child of an under chieftain; and forty pounds for children of meaner rank.

# LETTERS AND STATE PAPERS

ILLUSTRATIVE OF

## THE REIGN OF JAMES VI.

I.—SIR NICHOLAS BACON, LORD-KEEPER, TO QUEEN ELIZABETH.\*

MY MOSTE GRACIOUS SOVERAIGNE,

I with all humblenes praye pardon of your maiestie, that I presume by letter to do that which bounden duety and service requireth to be done in perfon. O good madam, not wante of a willing harte and mynde, but a vnhabable and vnweldy body, is the onely cause of this; and yet the body, such as it is, every day and hower, is, and ever shalbe, redy at your maiesties commandement, and so shoulde they be, yf I had a thowfand as good as any man hath, my allegeaunce and a number of benefitts hath so foundery tymes bounde me.

The causes that make me nowe to write to your maiestie be the dangerouse and perilous tymes that hath continuewed longe, and do nowe, in my judgement, daylie greatly encrease; for as the two mightie and potent priuces, your neighbours, and surely your inwarde enemyes, were the

\* This letter, from the father of Lord Bacon to Queen Elizabeth, has been preserved by Sir James Balfour, and was probably written not long previous to the death of Sir Nicholas, perhaps in the September preceding. It is a singularly curious and valuable historical document.

leffe to be doubted as longe as they had their handis full at home, fo doubteles they prevaile againſte thoſe that kepte them occupied, which, as I vnderſtand, they greatly do, the perillis and dangers to your maieſties ſtate haſten and growe on as greatly. Their willis are redy, onely theiſ lettis differreth their oportunitie. Nowe, thoſe being taken awaye, with what coniunct force and fury they will execute their will, full of enmytie and revenge, is eaſy to be iudged: for ſeing your maieſtie hath had evidente prouffe of their ill diſpoſicions towardis you by their practiſes, and that in waightie matters, in the mydeſt of their troubles, when they were not able to do you any hurte, what then is to be looked for when oportunitie and habilitie ſhall concurre? Agayne, it is to be doubted that when they ſhall begynne to ſtirre coles, that there be many, booth at home and abroad, that will put oyle to this fyre, and the rather becauſe of the gloriouſe and plauſible preteſte that they pretende to have, to ſerue their purpoſe.

Moſte gracious Soueraigne, I have been ſo vnquieted with thoſe thingis, when I entered into the conſideracion of them, whether of ouer muche fearefulnes by nature, or ouer greate icoloſy of your highe eſtate, I knowe not, that I coulde not choſe but nowe at the laſte, to vtter to your maieſtie that which I have ofte intended, and yet neuer done, partely by feare, partely by hope, that thingis ſhoulde prove better, which I ſee daylie prove worſe and worſe; and yf remedy be not foreſeen in tyme, I doubt it will prove very harde to be holpen by any counſell: to myne vnderſtanding, and the beſte remedy that I can thinke of, be theiſ, nevertheles ſubmytting them with all humblenes to your maieſties moſte grave and wiſe conſideracioun.

The firſte remedy is to make Scotland as affured to your maieſtie as maye be, for ſo beſydis the ayde you maye have by them, the greate perill of annoyaunce by Fraunce wilbe remoued; and the better to vnderſtand what is beſte to be foreſeen and provided for both their and your fuertie, me thinketh it beſt that ſome wiſe men were ſente to conferre with the Regent and his adherentis, by your maieſtie, and that ſuche counſell ſhalbe agreed vpon in that conference be ſente to your highnes to be conſidered of, and by you allowed or amended. Ther reſteth nothing

but to have it carefully executed ; and in the handling of this, greate care woulde be taken that the younge king, who groweth nowe to yeres, be not transported, but maye remayne in the governaunce of fuche, as shalbe moste assured to your maiestie ; and for the better bringing this to passe, I moste humble befeeeche your highnes, that fuche and so many pentions maye be graunted, as maye best bring it to good effecte. Surely I thinke that euery thowfande poundis that shalbe thus bestowed will save you a hundred thowfand ; yet it maye be doubted, whether, yf this be vndone, any money wilbe able to beare of the danger.

As to the seconde remedy, becaufe the annoyaunce from Spayne is like to growe by the Lowe Countries, I see no waye so sure for your maiestie as to kepe the Prince of Orenge in harte and life ; for methinketh his estate towards Spayne, and the Regentis towards Fraunce, stand both in one predycament, and therefore require booth one cowrse. The Statis of the Lowe Countries are so divided, that howe truste may be reposed in them where one trusteth not another, I see not. marry, yf it mighte be broughte to passe, by counsaile from hence, that the Duke of Arefcott and the States mighte governe the Countreis according to their liberties, and the Prince to have the rule of their martiall matters, this of alle others were the surest waye ; otherwise, whilest the States be in delyberaacion, it maye be doubted that their overthrowe maye happen.

The thirde remedie is to have your musters kepte and contynewed, and their certificatis carefully perused and wantis supplied, so as your captaynes, men, municioun, and armour, maye be in a redynes againste all fouldiouris and so[reigners ?]

Thus, I have troubled your maiestie, I confesse, longer then perchaunce it nedeth, confidering cheefely your owne vnderstanding and wisedome, and therewith the grave, wise, and carefull counsaylouris daylie attendaunte abowte you. But, good madam, howe can theis thingis discharge me of my duetye, judging of theis tymes as I do ? And although I have before this tyme signified to some of my Lords, what I have thoughte in your matters of state, yet feing nowe the daunger encreasing, I coulde not satisfie my oune harte withoute an advertisment to your selfe, moste humbly prayeing pardon for the lengthe of my letter, my shaking hande being

fo ill; and the rather becaufe I meane not to trouble your maieftie ofte withoute your maiefties licence and good favour. Thus wifhing to your highnes all felicitie both of mynde and body, I forbeare any farther to trouble your maieftie at this tyme. From Gorehambury, the xvth of September.

Your Maiefties moſte humble ſubiecte  
and fervaunte,

NICHOLAS BACON.\*

To the Queenis moſte excellent Maieſtie,  
my moſte gracious Soveraigne.

II.—MONSIEUR LE COMTE DE NASSAU AU ROY D'ESCOSSE.†

Ocr. 6, 1588.

SIRE,

Dautant que voſtre maieſte fera aſſez informee, tant par ce porteur, comme par ce que meſſieurs les Eſtats de ces pays luy eſcriuent, de ce qui concerne le batteau appelle le Phenix et les priſonniers dedans icelluy, ie me remettery a la relation du dict porteur et du contenu des dictes leſtres. Priant a voſtre maieſte treſhumblement de vouloir croire que non ſeulement en ce qui peult toucher ledict affaire, mais en toutes autres occurrences ou il plaira a voſtre maieſte m'honnorer de ſes com-

\* Sir Nicholas Bacon, Lord-Keeper of the Great Seal. He was deſcended of an ancient family in Suffolk, and born about the year 1510. He was a zealous Proteſtant, and extremely jealous of the ſucceſſion of the Queen of Scots. Suſpected of being concerned in a tract, oſtenſibly written by Mr John Hales, Clerk of the Hanaper, in ſupport of the title of the Houſe of Suffolk to the Engliſh throne, he fell under the diſpleaſure of Queen Elizabeth, who, in November 1564, reſtrained him from access to court, and intermeddling in any other buſineſſ than that of chancery. He was preſerved in his poſt of Lord-Keeper by the intereſt of Secretary Cecil, and retained that office till his demieſe, at his houſe near Charing-Croſſ, called York Place, on the 20th of February 1578-9. He was interred on the 9th day of March following, in the cathedral of St Paul's, where a monument was erected for him, which was deſtroyed by the fire of London in September 1666.

† Balcarras Papers.

mandemens, je ne faudray de m'employer, felon mon petit pouuoir et credit que je puis auoir en ces pays. Et fur ce, aprez avoir baife les mains tres humblement a vostre maieſte je prieray Dieu le maintenir,

Sire, en fa fainte garde et protection. De la Haye, ce vj Oôtobre 1588.

De vostre Maieſte tres humble seruiteur,

MAURICE DE NASSAU.\*

Au Roy d'Eſcoſſe.

*Indorſed:*

"6 Oôtab. 1588. Duik Moreis to  
the King of Scotland."

### III.—JACQUES VI. A MONSIEUR LE COMTE DE NASSAU.

SEPT. 19, 1592.

MONSIEUR MON COUSIN,

Ce gentilhomme porteur de cettcey,† eſtant des fa ieuneſſe nourry en ma compaignie, a maintenant reſolu voir le monde, et ſe rendre plus

\* He was usually termed Count of Nassau, until, by the death of his elder brother, Philip William, he became Prince of Orange. He was one of the greatest men of his age, whether considered as a warrior or a statesman. The chief blot upon his character was his ungrateful and cruel treatment of John of Oldenbarneveldt, whose inflexible honesty, and love of his country, formed a formidable obstacle to the Prince's ambitious views. Barneveldt was a patriot in the proper sense of the word, and unlike many persons pretending to the appellation in modern times, was ready to sacrifice every private advantage for the public good. This illustrious man fell a victim to his virtues, and suffered death at an advanced age. He was condemned 12th May 1619, and executed in the court of the castle at the Hague, where the scaffold was raised opposite the window of the Prince, who "beheld this execution from his window by the help of a prospective; upon which some people made their reflections."—*Lives of the Princes of Orange*, translated from the French of Baron Maurier, by Mr Thomas Brown. London, 1693. 8vo. p. 170.

† This was probably "Jacobus Balfonrius a Pitcullo, liber Baro, Cubicularius noster intimus, et a prima adolescentia, apud nos educatus, nationes externas inuisere constituens," &c. and who is so described by James VI. in a Latin letter addressed to Philip II. (but apparently never delivered), dated at the palace of Dalkeith, in the month of September 1592. As the descriptions of Balfour,

capable a me faire seruice digne de son rang. Son intention donques honneste et louable merite que ie le recommande a bon eficient a mes plus affectionés amis, tant pour les vertus que ie cognois en luy, que pour son fidelle seruice qu'il ma fait, estant gentilhomme de ma chambre. Je vous prie partant le vouloir fauoir de vostre courtoisie, pour l'amour de moy, si dauanture il ait occasion de faire seiour es Prouinces Vnies, ou, bien fil ait a passer par vos quartiers. Vous asseurant que vous my faires plaisir, dont ie men reuencheray a l'endroit de ceux quil vous plaira me recommander. Et en cest endroit ie prieray l'Eternel,

Monsieur mon cousin, quil vous ait tousiours en sa saincte et digne garde. De mon Chasteau de Dalketh, ce 19 de Septembre 1592.

Vostre bien affectionné Cousin,

JAQUES R.

A Monsieur mon Cousin, Monsieur  
le Conte de Nassau, Grand Ad-  
miral de Prouinces Unies.\*

#### IV.—KING JAMES VI. TO QUEEN ELIZABETH.

APRIL 13, 1594.

RIGHT HEIGH, RIGHT EXCELLENT, AND MIGHTIE PRINCESSE,

Or darrest sifter and cousin, In our maist heartie maner, we re-  
comend vs vnto you, hauing so guid occasion offred of employment of

and the causes of his visiting foreign parts, so completely agree in both letters—as the period is the same, and as they are both dated from the same place, it is not improbable that the Baron of Pitcullo was the individual introduced to the notice of Prince Maurice. This person afterwards became an Irish Peer by the title of Lord Balfour of Clonawley in the county of Fermanagh, and if we may credit Spottiswood, Bishop of Clogher, in after life, sorely belied the character given him by his royal master. See “*Briefe Memorial of the Lyfe and Death of Doctor James Spottiswood*,” from a MS. in the Auchinleck Library. Edinburgh, 1811. 4to.

\* Balcarras Papers.



some from vs to deliuer unto you a defyre quhilk ue dout not fal be to your goude lyking and contentment, ue haue made choyse of our trustie and veilbeloutis James Coluill of Easter Vymes,\* and Mr Eduard Bruce, Commendator of Kinloss,† amplie instructed lykuayes in all such maters, as ue haue thought conuenient be them to communicat to you, quhilk tuoching ws so neir in our honor and vther wayes, ue looke assuredlie that deue respect and confideration being had, we fall at lenth receaue such full satisfactioun as in resloun we may rest contented; hauing therewithall giuen them in charge, to assure you of the performance of such poynts as ues delt in be the Lord Zouche, your lait Embafadour with us, according to our anfuers returned be him; so the particulars remitted to ther faithfull deliuerie, quhome it may pleis you crydit firmlie as our selue. Efter our most earnist vifs of God for the continuance of your lang and prosperous range, we leaue you, right heicht, right excellent and mightie Princeffe, to his blessed and holy protectioun. Edinbrugh, the xij of Aprile 1594.‡

JAMES R.

V.—KING JAMES VI. TO THE EARL OF ESSEX.

RICHT TRUSTIE AND WELLBELOUIT COUSIN,

Allthoch I haue this long tyme forborne the vretting unto you, becaufe of the urong ye receauid their through, suppoise not in my default, but in the default of thaim that uaire employed betuixt us, yett nou, hauing directit thir tuo gentelmen,§ ambaffadouris to the Quene youre fouueraine, vpon uechtie and urgent occasions, importing no lesse

\* Sir James Colville of Easter Wemys was created Lord Colville of Culross, 25th April 1604.

† Afterwards created Lord Kinloss. He died in 1610, aged 62.

‡ Balfour MSS.

§ James Colville of Easter Wemys and Edward Bruce.

then the preferuation or breake of the amitie fo long and happilie conti-  
neuid betuixt the tuo crounis, I uolde not omitt this occasion in fending  
these few lynis unto you, heirby to praye you fauourable to heare, and  
according to the freindshipp I looke for at youre hande, to further thame  
als farr as in you lyis to a goode and speedie dispatche. I looke, milorde,  
that a nobleman of the ranke ye are of, uill moue and affist the Quene  
vith youre good aduyce, not to suffer herself to be fyled and abufed  
any longer with fuche as præferre thair particulaire and unhoneft affec-  
tions to the Quenis princelie honoure and peax of both the realmes; but  
I referr the particulars of all to the beararis report, quhome I haue  
comandit to use youre aduyce in all thaire proceedings: And thus, richt  
truftie and uellbelouit coufin, I bidd you hairtelie fairuell. From Edin-  
burgh the xiiij of Apryle 1594.

Youre uerie louing freinde,

JAMES R.\*

To our richt truflie and well belouit  
Coufin, the Earle of Effex.

VI.—SIR WILLIAM KEITH TO JAMES VI.

FEBRUARY 4, 1596.

PLEASE YOUR MAIESTY,

I cam to this toun of Venice the xiii of Deffember, stillo novo,  
quhar, aftir fom few dayis, I had the neius of the hell hes bein on the

\* From his Majesty's Autograph. Balfour MSS. In Birch's *Memoirs of Queen Elizabeth*, this letter has been printed "from a copy among the MS. Collections of Dr Patrick Forbes, in the possession of the Honourable Philip Yorke, Esq.;" and it is observed, "what answer the earl return'd to the king does not appear." It would rather seem never to have been delivered, but to have been brought back by the ambassadors, which may account for the original being found amongst the Balfour MSS. Sir James has written upon a copy which he had made of it, "This letter, befor it wes deliuerit to the Earle of Essex he wes execut, and so it wes never deliuerit." A most absurd reason for its non-delivery, as Essex did not suffer till the 25th February 1601.

counfall of ten thir thri 3eirs bygen, and cauft my brother be him felf fpeik tham all feverally, as having vord from ane Skots gentilman : Bot to be fehort in this, fir, thair vald nain of tham do fo meikill as fpeir his nem, and denyit the knowlage of any mairi [mair?]; he lernit that thair vas ane deid and ane other remaining imbafter at Roim, that had fom faffons vith ftrangers. Sva, finding that the Devk of Venice at that tyme\* is nov deid; and as I trov the other fennatour gif any vas (3a, albeit he var leifing, thay of ten ar fehengeitt everi fax monethe) fva I focht quher I micht quyatly be aquent vith the principall fecritter, quhilk vithe dificolti I obtained, in refpect thay remaine in office all thair lyf, and is not thair faffon to fpeik vith any bot poblikly; 3it he did fo meikill, as I vas brocht in be ane quyat paffage, quhair the Dewk vas vithe the number of Saxtein, to vit the Ten and Sax is callid propirlye the heids of the reft; and becaus I vas to begin of nev, and had nothing to fhev, bot 3our maiefties inftrouctions quhilk I vald not, I thoght gud to fill ane of the blanks 3our maieftie fent vith me, vithe fom gennerrall vords of ofice to the Deuk and Sennat vithe credit be 3our hines onto my felf: I and my brother being cecritters, alway it pleift them verrie veill, and vald hav honorrit me for 3our maiefties faik as ane imbafter, bot I then tham I vas not, bot for fecrit handling of 3our maiefties affairs, vas com to maik my errand for lerning of the langage and other vertevs, as the faffon of ftraingers vas: alway they left not of in gret revarranceing 3our maieftie; bot quhan I begane and tald them quhow that ane 3ong Skots gentillman called Balendin brocht fik a mellege onto 3our maieftie, and fva forthe as 3our hines direckit me, the Devk and all the counfall mifkenid it elein, and villit me to fpeik quhat els, bot I held me fva lang at this point as reffon and difereffion vald. At laft I faid in 3our maiefties nem, I vas to gif anfuair to thair firft propofficion, quhilk vas 3our hines thankitt tham of thair gudvill, and cowlde be content to be in frainchap vith tham. The Devk anfvarrit and faid it vas verrie veill, bot vald I fay any

\* The Doge Pascal Cicogna. He died in 1595, and was fucceeded by Marino Grimani, who enjoyed the Ducal honours till his decease, 26th December 1605. His fuccessor was Leonardo Donato.

forder? The quhilk I thocht not gud to do till I had anfvare in that, and desſyritt of the Deuk and Counfall to haw itt: Being convoyit veri quyatly away, I vas fend for againe vitlin ten dayis, quhar, being com, the Devk faife, that for anfvair thay var meſt villing to be in freinſchap vith 3our maieſtie, and 3it focht giff I vald fay any mair? Nov, I had lerned befor that it vas not meiteſt to ſpeik derekly of the Kyng of Spain, bot I ſaid inkece 3our maieſtie var troblit in 3our avin contra, or after the Quein of Inglands diſſece, be any domeſtik or forrene nacion in ſeiking of 3our richt, quhat vald be thair pairt, and quhow vald thay think of it? The Devks anſvar vas, that thay ſovld advyſſe and gif ane ſik anfvair as God moift tham vithe all. Ovpon the morren I vas deſſyrit again, and caſt ſit down amongs tham quhither I vald or not, and put on my hat. The Dewk begovd and ſaid, ve hav advyſt to gif 3our King ane anfvair, quhilk ve beleife fall content him, and that 3e may remember the bettir on it, 3e fall heir it red, ains, tyys, or thryſe, quhilk vas doin. Aftir the Devk ſaid, ve ar veri veill content of 3our ſecritt form vith ovſſe, and vill deſſy 3ou ſet down the ſobſtance of this vret onto his hines 3our maiſtir, and quhat forder, he vill bid 3ou fay in his maieſties nem, now or heir-aftir, it fall be meſt luiſingly harde and anſvarrit. Thir ſpeichis var delyverrit vithe ane veri graciouſe countinace; 3it, I thocht ains to hav ſaid that all vas veill genarral I hard; bot, fir, vith your maieſties pardoun, I fand it meiter to vret thir lynis to be advyſſit vithall, and to fend the verrie vords, ſo neir as I can, that vas red onto me, ſaiue only ane thay ſet down to my advantage, quhilk I think ſchem to let be ſein, fence all the praife, honour, and veilfair, belongithe to 3our maieſtie, quha never derekit me 3it, I thank God and 3our hines, bot 3our graces errands 3eid reſſonable veill, as I houpp this fall. Sua, fir, the tyme being propir in reſpeçt of the Kyng of Spains interpryſe apeirandli again Ingland, gif 3our maieſtie pleiſe, 3e may taik onto 3ov ſik feu nomber of 3our counfall as 3e think gud, and reſolſſe quhat fardar 3our maieſtie vill deill vith this meſt vyſſe and luiſing Repoblik, for quhat 3our hines vill ſeik of tham vith reſſon, I beleife to obtain it onto 3our maieſtie, letting me be authorreift be 3our maieſties lettirs to the Devk and Sennat all in ane,

and fom blanks vith 3our maiefties gret fignet and court fignet, to cloffe them and fill tham as I find occafion.\*

Now, fir, being quhar papiftri is, I can not vant fom of the dreggis. 3our maieftie hes hard quhat the freirs dois, quhan thay hav pritcht all the day; bot in gud faithe, fir, I fould never maik this preiteching for my felf, gif I could othervaise do. I brocht not faife hundrithe kroons vith me, and my brother baithe, ovt of Londen, as nain knovs bettir nor 3our maiefties trew poir fervant, Thomas Fovles: and, fir, my flaying still in Venice on this errand this tva monethe hes bein no fmall inaittir onto my poffe; bot, fir, I haiv caws to think it mair nor veill beftowit for many reffons, and I hoip in God to do 3our maieftie gud and fecrit service heir; only the difpatche 3our hines fends, baithe for 3our fervice and my help, let it be foine and fecritt; for I beleife, and can lerin heir nothing els, but that the Spainzairds falbe in England, or els ewill douing, be the tym I dow heir from 3our maieftie. But albeit, fpair not to fend me vord, for I beleife to do 3our hines lytill var service gif thay var landit in England, nor quhar thay ar preffently. This flet luifs tham not, and fua pre-pairs be fi, inkece thay mein for them, albeit in the mein tyme thay ar in fair terms. If it may pleife 3our hines to communicat of this onto Thomas Fovls, I, vith 3our majefties lyfflance, vill anfvaire for his fecreff; and he is verie meit to delyver my lettirs onto 3our hines from tym to tym, and vith 3our vord of 3our hines (be him to James Hudfon) my hell lettirs vill com and gang verie faife. Bifiking 3our hines to pardon my baldnes and roid form in vretting fva langfomly, quhilk I vas conftanit to do, that 3our hines micht heire my hell proceidings, as I vald to God 3our maieftie knew my hairt, and vith 3our quhat deffyr I do 3our fervice, and

\* These negotiations with the Venetians are amusing enough. James seems to have taken every opportunity of endeavouring to get his right of succession to the crown of England recognised abroad, and so far as promises went, he seems to have been not very scrupulous. It was this laxity of principle, and his dealing with Catholic princes, that gave rise to the belief of his inclination to Popery. James was too fond of exclusive power himself to think of parting with any portion of it to the Pope. Episcopacy suited him much better where he was head of the church himself. In viewing his political arrangements generally, it is almost impossible not to agree with Lord Hailes, that whatever may have been "his character as a man, or his conduct as a monarch," his "judgment was sound, and his apprehension clear," especially where his own interests were concerned.

feiks the inkrefment of 3our maiefties grettnes, that ane day I affur my felf to fi ; onto the quhilk and ever, I pray God to blife 3our hines and all 3our proceedings. From Venice, the fourt of Fabrowair, ftilo novo, 1596.

Your Maiefties faithfull, humble, and  
moft obedient fervand,

SR. W. KEITH.\*

The gret gudvill and fauorable intencion that the kyngs maieftie of Skotland hes participattit vithe ovffe be 3our mediacioun.

The anvfair quharof. It falbe onto ovffe moft deffyrrous and villing all the gud lovks of his maieftie inkreffing in gretnes. And ve fall not fell in ovr pairs for to fchav all favorable correffondance, as his maieftie fall find in freindschap and amittie to his hines being fo veill lykitt of be ovffe, acording to the intitutioun and form of this our Repoblik.

Sir, this is the verri fobftance of that vas red onto me, albeif it vas amplifeit vithe many courtas vords in the Ittalliane, quhilk is not thair faffon to gif copis of, nather hav thay any vret of me.†

To his Maiefti of Skotland.

\* Sir William Keith of Ludquhairn, son of Gilbert Keith, by Margaret, daughter of James Gordon of Lesmoir. He was knighted by James VI., and married Margaret, daughter of William Lord Keith, and sister of George fifth Earl Marischal, by whom he had a son, William, who was created a Baronet of Nova Scotia by Charles I., by patent to him and his heirs-male whatsoever, dated 28th July 1629.

† Balcarras Papers.

## VII.—SIR WILLIAM KEITH TO THOMAS FOULIS.

15TH AUGUST [1596] ?

MOST LUIFFING AND ASSURED FREIND,

I can not bot marwall, 3e haue newer wrettin bot ane lettir, fence I fende 3ow myn, to be preffentit till owr deirest freind, quha I am foir hes not bein the cawfle off swa lang stay, the porposse importting fo meikill onto him, for tym is all in sik mairtchandeis, and may afflur 3ow within thir twa monethes, 3e nicht haue had sik ane blok as nein of any nation cowl'd hav the lyk off, mairtchands I mein, bot now the Inglife treid is fo thoct off, as thair is no other talk bot off that, 3et mair nor the Spainis. I am adwarteist be Jams Hudson to be war in my wairs bying, in respect thair is fo many Inglife schaipis at se; bot he wretts fo obfkoirle, that it may be taikin twa wayis, and that he or any leiffing, bot 3our freind and 3owr felff, can ken off my mairtchandeis be my falt, it is nocht: 3it wretts he mair that thair is fom lettir interseptit, wrettin be Scotts Jeffowitts, quharin my nem is mencionid, howping to work wonders at my poir hands, bot wretts not quhar the Jeffowitts ar, nor wha interseptts the lettir; bot, as I taik it, Ingland, quha I am afflurit has bein ewer bettir informit off me, nor that I will haue cheng in my releigion, and any thinge els bot my prievat exerceiffes I mell not into, and for 3owr bloks and freinds off yeir maittirs I howp not to be meikill invoyitt, and gif I wis any did, I fowld do mair nor I haue doin, 3it staving owpon 3owr adwarteifment. 3e wret newer ane word news onto me, nor quhow our Sweithland maistir is, 3it I haue bein demandit heir quhat news I haid from Scotland, and quhan I heird from it? Consider 3e thein gif I haw cawfle to find falt with 3our flewthful onkyndnes. Farder, fom of my aquentance speirrit giff his maiesttie of Scotland heid fend any men and schaipis with this fleit off Ingland agains Spaine? I faid I beleift nocht, nor wald nocht, onles the kyng off Spaine parfewid Ingland, at quhilk tym thay heir nicht parfchance knaw, that owr maistir's forfe was mair nor fom giffs owt. Thir ar ane wyfe peipill, and wil be leithe the kyng off Spaine

taiks thaim for enemies ; and thinks tham fober freinds that diflyks tham, fwa 3it quhat they ar and quhom thay luiff is knawin albeit nocht to many, and in fik fort as thay may deny it quhan thay will. Leiffing this porpofe, that I wat not quhow I begane it, faue in finding fat with 3owr onkyndnes, I man tell 3ow, that I am indet for 3owr wairs ane thowfand crowns, and hes newer firft nor laft had ane pennie from 3ow nor 3owr freinds, quhom I wreit not, feing I med the blok with 3ow : mend this falt with fpeid, for 3e know what it is for ane 3ung mairtehand to tyn his credit at fourft. And 3it I haue doin for ane moneth in to com, and afurs my felf the forfaid fom is be the way, knawing the honeft mynd off 3owr freind, I will not fay 3owrfelf : bot this far, giff 3e twa do this 3our dewty to me, for all is wrettin onto me, or can be doin in my contrair, I fall put faire wairs in 3owr hands and 3owr freind's, with God's graic. I fay this, wind and wader ferwing that all be not loft be the way or flewthe of tyme. 3e haue doin me ane ewill torrin, hes haldin me fwa lang from feing the reft off this gairding off the wordle ; and langer nor the end of September I cannot ftay : and giff word poffiblei coms not from 3ow or them, I fall tak fik ordor with 3our torns and my credit as I may, till my bak coming, quhilk, God willing, fall not be lang, gif the Pep maik me not cardinell, for my deep dewocion and fervic. Parhapis the Jeffwitts howpis to moife me and him ; thus thinking this fowficiant for ane man of 3owr fpreit, I praye 3ow commend my feirveice to tham I awcht, and to others as 3e think gud ; bot let als few weit off my wretting onto 3ow, as 3e can inteffipet. I am fweir to offir my fair hand wret to ewerrie ane, and my flowdis dyttment quhilk I recomend beithe ane and other as aratikis. Gif it pleis God we meit, I fall gar 3ow trow of the quhilk, God I pray preferwe 3ow. From Padoua, the 15th of Agowft filio novo.

3owr meft conftand and afurid  
freind to be employit,

S<sup>r</sup>. W. KEITHE.\*



I pray 3ow, taik gud tent that this 3owr lettir be not openit be the way.

To my worthie luiffing freind Thomas  
Fowlls, borgefs in Edinburghe, and  
jewaller onto the King's Maieftie off  
Scotland.

[There was enclosed in this letter, on a flip of paper, the following additional communication to Mr Thomas Fowlis.]

Thair coms ane lettir amongs my other onto 3owr brother, bot ken nothing to him new. Taik ane gud hairtt qubat ewer cawfe 3e have, and I fall maik 3ow help heir, gif his maieftie fend me moyane to bye in tym, for that is all. And the King of Spains forces again Ingland, I feir, and 3e heft nocht, foin falbe : bot I fall make his maieftie the gretter of it heir, for thay luif him not. I wald 3e fawe my letter wrettin onto his maieftie, and ye man fi it, for neift God and the king I thank 3ow. Pance nocht on geir to do 3ow ewill, for 3e know qubat cawfe I have, bot my cair is on God ; caft 3ow thair, and 3owr honest form fall ewer confort 3ow. Heft word and my difcharge to me, bot I will not wret onto 3ow in this other gret pakket, becaufe thay ar beithe off ane dett, and this tikett I wrot that thir lettirs fall not beir bowk ; 3e man be chamles at his maiefties hands for fikreife onto me ; fence it is his weil mair nor myn in the end, and I may fay, I have doin his hines ferweifs, and my lying heir hes bein no small maittir onto me, and maiking moyan for this torrin. Fell not to fchew his maieftie that the Italliane he was fo gud onto, at my deffyrs, is heir, and werrie gret with the gret Dewk of Florence, and offers to cawfe the dewk fend for me. His majestie kens he is the Kyng of Spanis onfriend quyatlle, and luifs our kyng. Gif his hines will, I fall fpeik him, and giff him fom words of offere on my awin heid, bot not from his hines, till he fend me word in this ; for in my oppinion his maieftie fall have neid off freinds and money both, or he get Ingland, and this dewk hes bethe, and is in lig with this repoblick, at left in gret amittie. I cloffe his maiefties lettir, fwa that giff he taik not ane knyff

and cott it owt, it will ryff; likewais I have cloiffit it roidlei, that it be not brokin owt or kend, fua exquiffe my roidnes lowrd falt\* in this, and rid this other fyd weil. I am affraid for James Hudfon, thairfor taik gud tent in the opining the lettirs.

VIII.—EARL OF ERROL TO KING JAMES VI.

IT MAY PLEASS 3OUR MAIESTIE,

That althocht it has pleafit God fa to difpoifs of my effaris, as that fince I profellit the Catholik religioun, I haif remanit for the maift pairt in gryt trwbles, bot maift fpeciallie thir thrie or four 3eris laft bygane, in extrem and daylie danger of my lyf, befyd all my vther irrecorable loiffis : 3it being affuredly perfuadit in my felf, that 3our maiefte hes fufficiently confiderit (and that according to the treuth, as God is my vitnefs), that thir my lait and gryttaft extremeties haif procedit onlie vpon that ouer gryt feruor and onneceffar rigor of the miniftrie (qua, difdainfullie reiecting all reasonable conditiouns, will force mennis confciencis, nocht as 3it perfuadit, till imbrace thair opiniouns in matteris of religioun), and nocht of any intentioune in me till offend againft 3our hienefs perfoune or eftait. I am, thairfoir, the mair bauld heirby till regrait and lament my hard eftait, as I haif euer doone be fic midfes as I mycht vntoe 3our maiefte, quhairin as it pleafours God till permit my fortune daylie till becum mair frauart, fa I hoip to find 3our hienefs the mair gracious and freindlie. My hardeft hap and grytteft greif, as God knauis, hes euer bein that being debarrit of 3our maiefties prefence, till maik my awin pairt guid and knawin to 3our hienes, all my fincer and vprycht intentiouns haif bein finiftrouffie exponit and forcit till actiouns for defence of my awin lyf and eftait, in opin thame on my pairt, offensiu to 3our maiefte, God being my iudg, and my confcience bering me record, that it neuer enterit in my mynd, famekle as to be of thocht, willinglie till offend 3our hienefs; and I hop my behauiour in this, my hard

\* Awkward or clumsy mistake. O. Fr. *lourde faute*.

banishment, quhairof your maiestie cannot be ignorant, hes giuin sufficient testimonie of my deuotifull and sincer affectioun to your hienes seruice, as he, quha, as he hes the honor to be fa neir of your maiesties blood, sa his gryttest desyr and contentment hes bein, and is, to spend his lyf for your hienes, and the preferuatioun of his awin natie cuntrie, without regaird of persons or perrell quhatfumeuer, my deutie to God in my conscience onlie referuit; vther nor quhilk, your maiestie self and all Scotland knawis, I neuer did craif. And albeit my present misfortune fall, I dout nocht, gif gryt contentment and mair pouar to my ondeferuit enemies till seik my vther rwin, zit my resolutioun till returne in Scotland, being for the earnest desyr I haid (and that nocht without guid grund) to doe your maiestie seruice, as the end fall prouif in effect, I hop my attempt in that falbe the les offensive to your hienes, althocht I haif nocht as zit that I knau of, obtenit your maiesties licence for my warrand; and thairfor, that I mycht returne the mair quietlie, and with les suspitioun, I interprysit this way, of mynd till haif passit be Holland, bot befor I could cum thair, being trappit be mair diligent serce nor I luikit for, I wes brocht heir, and at last, being tryt quha I ues, am nou detenit till your maiestie be aduertissit and resolue hou to dispos of me :• Quhairin I besaik your hienes to taik sic order, as may best aggrie with your maiesties awin honor and my feurtie, vntil the tym I be brocht to quhat pairt of Scotland fall lyk your hienes, quhair quhensoeuer it may please God I arryue, I am nocht to plead with your maiestie for my iust defence (albeit I lak nocht guid argument), bot onlie till seu to your hienes clemencie and fauor, for my saif-gaird against the violence and malice of my enemies, being maist assurit that bayth natur be blood, and princelie courag, fall taik mair place, and voork gryttar effectis in your hienes hert, for my feurtie and preferuatioun, quhilk in end will zeild your maiestie gryttar honor and contentment, nor the satisfactioun of my

• Lord Errol and the other Popish peers, Angus and Huntly, not finding themselves comfortable in foreign parts, resolved to return to Scotland, and used all means to reconcile themselves to the King and the Church. Errol, while passing through the Low Countries, was intercepted and delivered into the hands of Mr Robert Danielston, Conservator at Campvere. This letter appears to have been written to the King in consequence of this seizure. The Earl contrived, however, to escape, and shortly thereafter arrived safely in Scotland.

enemies, be my vrak (quha am alredie fa far vrakit) can breid 3our hienefs commoditie or pleafeur, speciallie being to 3our maieftie that I am.

Nather fall I euer craif at God or 3our hienefs gryttar graice or fauor in this uarld, nor I carie and euer did a faythfull hert to 3our maiefties feruice, and a feruent defyr to fpend my lyf for the fame, quherfoeuer guid occaſiounne haid bein or may be offerit. And thairwith ceſſing to virie 3our hienefs uith farthar purpoſs heirin, bot committing my ſelf and the cair of my hale eftait to God and 3our maiefties guid conſiderationne, and langing till haif the honor to ſie 3our hienefs ſelf, honſoeuer matteris ſucced thairefter, in maiſt humillie kiſſing 3our maiefties handis, and beſeking God till grant 3our hienefs als guid ſucces in all 3our guid and uerteouſs defyris, as I wiſhe, I taik leiſ. Middlebruche, the firſt day of Julij 1596.

3our Maieſties euer maiſt faythfull, luiffing,  
and obedient ſubiect and ſeruitur, to his  
laſt breath,

ERROLL.\*

IX.—JACOBUS SEXTUS, MAGNIFICIS ET NOBILIBUS ZELANDIÆ ORDINIBUS.

1596.

JACOBUS Dei gratia Rex Scotorum magnificis et nobilibus  
Zelandiæ ordinibus compatribus ſuis amiciffimis, ſalu-  
tem et perpetuum felicitatis incrementum.

Nobiles et magnifici domini, amici et compadres nobis ſincere dilecti, cum ex veſtris literis intellexerimus, Franciſcum quondam Arrolie comitem, unum ex perduellium noſtrorum numero, cum clandeſtinum in regnum noſtrum reditum pararet, imperio veſtro captum ac detentum eſſe, ac Roberto Daniellſtoun priuilegiolorum noſtrorum conſeruatori in cuſtodiam datum, donec de animi noſtri voluntate certiora afferri poſ-

\* Balcarras Papers.

sent, in toto hoc negotio constantem vestræ erga nos (ut compadres amicissimos decet), benevolentia tenorem manifestissime perspeximus, magnoque nostro et regni nostri commodo id consilii a vobis captum esse ingenue profitemur, illius enim ceterorumque proscriptorum inopinatus in patriam reditus, periculosum aliquem tumultum excitare potuisset. Quocirca maximas vestris mag<sup>ciis</sup> et meritis gratias habemus, relaturi cum amicissimæ nostræ erga vos voluntatis testandæ, par se occasio obtulerit, quod certissime a nobis expectetis, atque etiam ut pro vestro amicitia jure cum opportunum fuerit, flagitetis, etiam atque etiam rogamus. Quid autem de Francisco illo proscripto consilii eeperimus, id vobis impartiri volumus, eum scilicet nostrarum rerum statum esse, ut quavis cautione adhibita, eum in patriam redire, nec religioni, nec nobis aut regno, nec vobis amicis nunc expediat. Idcirco eum in custodia detineri volumus, donec sponsoribus hic præstitis caueat (multos enim et potentes affines et confanguineos habet) se neque in regnum nostrum sine licentia et comiteatu nostro, prius impetrato, rediturum, neque interea quicquam, quod vel religioni, vel communi nostro amicorumque et confederatorum nostrorum statui detrimento esse possit, moliturum, præsertim autem nulla cum Hispano consilia communicaturum, sub pœna magnæ summæ pecuniariæ, aliisque pœnis quæ legibus nostris consentaneæ sunt, qua fideiussione hic prius præstita, tum eum dimitti volumus, ut vbilibet priuata sua negotia procuret, eo jure quo ante captiuitatem proximam potuerat: hoc vobis ut viris amicissimis significandum duximus. Quæ porro ad hoc negotium pertinent ADRIANO DAMMAN mag<sup>ciis</sup> vestris per eum referenda exposuimus, qui singulari fide, diligentia et integritate hic versatus est, adeo ut non minus quam nostratum aliquis nobis acceptus sit, ei ut commissæ referenti fidem, aureque benignas præbeatis, rogamus. Interea Deum optimum maximum precamur, ut vos et diutissime incolumes et in florenti rerum statu conferuet.\*

[*Indorsed.*]

Copie of the Kings letter to the estaits  
of Æeland, anent the taking of the  
Erle of Arrol. 1596.

\* Balcarras Papers.

X.—JACOBUS SEXTUS DILECTO FAMILIARI SUO GULIELMO KEITH.

Nov. 1596.

JACOBUS Dei gratia Scotorum Rex dilecto familiari suo Gulielmo Keyth hæc mandata, ferenissimo Venetiarum Duci ejusque potentissimæ ciuitatis fenatui prudentissimo exponenda, commisit.

Primum nemini mirum videri debere ostendes, quod nos consilia cum ea republica communicare, fœdusque et amicitiam instituere cupimus, a qua longissima terrarum et maris intercapedine diffiti, ne vel mercatorum quidem commercia habeamus: cum a formidabili Hispaniarum regis vicinitate et potentia metus vtrique nostrum communis sit, periculum vero eorum reipublicæ inde imminens eos quidem tanquam eius regis regiis dominiisque vicinos, et olim bello ab eius maioribus vexatos, probe intelligere et summa prudentia præuenturos confidimus.

Nobis vero quantum a tam potentis Regis vicinitate periculi immineat manifestum est, cum Angliam hæreditario jure post mortem ferenissimæ Reginæ Elizabethæ nobis debitam, idem Rex vt a pontifice diris deuotam et prædæ expositam belli jure vindicare intendat: certum autem est, omnes Angliæ Reges armis et gloriæ deditos, Scotiæ quoque vt eiusdem insulæ partis exiguæ imperium affectauisse, quanto minus tam potens Rex qui simul femelque Galliam, Germaniam, Inferiorem Angliamque occupare nititur, nos vicinos patietur, ac non potius, vt Ferdinandus eius proauus Nauarrum regem iniuria maxima regna exturbauit, ita nos quoque pretextu aliquo (forte religionis, et a pontifice excommunicari et regno priuari procurabit) atque eo magis, quod ad Angliæ regnum indubitatum jus habeamus: cum certo sibi persuadere possit, saluis nobis nostraque stirpe, nunquam illi Angliæ possessionem quietam fore, quamuis eam vt spe jampridem deuorauit, ita re ipsa armis vique femel occupauisset.

Hoc quoque tibi ostendendum est, dictum Hispaniarum Regem primum

regnum nostrum inuadere decreuisse vt aditu facilius et exponendis copiis magis commodum, et ad comparandos commeatus, reficiendos milites, conducenda precipue leuioris arma curæ equitum auxilia, propter subditorum nostrorum factiones et de religione controuersias, denique ad totum bellum Anglicum propter vicinitatem valde opportunum.

Totamque huius belli feriem exulum nostrorum consilio compositam esse, idque ex literis ducis Sessæ, qui legatus Romæ residet, ad suum Regem missis, et in itinere per Massiliensium triremes interceptis patere, quarum exemplum ad nos per Christianissimum Gallie Regem transmissum, ad te misimus, dicto serenissimo duci et senatui communicandum.

His accedit proscriptorum et exulum nostrorum comitum scilicet Huntlee et Errolie in regnum nostrum sine nostra licentia reditus, vnde tumultus orientes vix compefcere possumus, quod ab Hispano illis pecuniam administrari et auxilia militum breui secutura et Angliæ Regna et omnes fere subditi nostri certo sibi persuadeant, nam et ob consilia cum Hispano de regni nostri inuassione communicata a nobis abhinc triennium proscripti et arcibus euersis bonisque confiscatis e regno pulsi fuerunt, vt eos et denuo consilia cum Hispano communicasse et eius ope fretos in regnum nuper rediisse verisimile sit.

Cum igitur a tam potente aduersario periculum imminens habeamus, cum dicta potentissima republica fœdus et amicitiam inire, si ita serenissimo duci et prudentissimo senatui visum fuerit, necessarium putamus, quod vt enixe petas, tibi specialiter mandamus, potestatemque nostram de ea re consultandi, tractandi, et concludendi commisimus, promittentes in verbo principis nos ratum gratumque habituros, quicquid ad dictum fœdus pertinens cum dicto serenissimo duce et prudentissimo senatu concluseris. Ad milites vero conducendos, et bellum jam fere inceptum propulsandum [pecuniam mutuo accipere, et] amicorum præsidium implorare, et pecuniam mutuo accipere necessarium duximus, et quamuis dictam potentissimam rempublicam vicissim remunerari et eis necessario aliquo tempore præsidium aliquod afferre in potestate nostra situm non videatur, hoc tamen serenissimo duci et senatui considerandum expones præsentem illis vtilitatem ex regni nostri totiusque Britannie præseruatione fore,

quod futuræ alioqui tanti Regis potentiæ, qui proculdubio aliquando et illis quoque inimicus futurus est, impedimentum aliquod afferetur.

Reputent qua fama et totius Europæ terras Caletum in adspæctu Britanniae situm hoc anno expugnauerit, et quanta moles eius magnitudini accederet, si regnum nostrum ut nouum ad Angliam expugnandam aditum vicinis Europeis omnibus dormitantibus et de suo periculo securis, occupare possent.

Si autem (quod indubitatum nostrum jus nostris amicorumque viribus propugnandum promittit) Angliæ imperio potiri nobis aliquando (post mortem scilicet reginæ) contigerit, tum non solum ex mercaturæ commercii magna dictæ reipublicæ utilitas ex regno nostro accedet: sed etiam quancunque nobis hoc tam necessario tempore, pecuniæ summam mutuo dederint, summa fide persoluemus, et semper grato animo eius reipublicæ amorem et in nos beneuolentiam prosequemur.

Interea dictum serenissimum ducem senatumque orabis, ut si quid in nobis est quod ad eorum reipublicæ decus honorem aut emolumentum facere potest, id totum a nobis expectent, gratissimumque nobis futurum iudicabis, si pro amicitiae jure id nobis significant, certo sibi spondentes nos illis amicissimos et ad omne amoris officium paratissimos futuros.\*

XI.—JACOBUS DEI GRATIA REX SCOTORUM SERENISSIMO PRINCIPI  
VENETIARIUM DUCI SALUTEM.\*

MISIMUS ad ciuitatem vestram, generosum Gulielmum Keyth, unum ex familiaribus nostris, ut ciuitati vestræ quædam nostro nomine exponeret. Illi vero ciuitatem vestram aures benignas præbuisse intelleximus, quo nomine summas ciuitati vestræ gratias habemus. Plura autem eidem mandata ciuitati vestræ communicanda dedimus. Quocirca ciuitatem vestram oramus, ut pro solita vestra humanitate, illi aures attentas præbere et eam fidem habere oramus velit, quam nobis ipsis, si præsentem essemus, habitura esset. Non dubitamus autem quin quod nobis utile

\* From the original drafts preserved amongst the Balcarras Papers.



est, id quoque inclitæ vestræ Reipublicæ honori et emolumento cedit. Vale, ferenissime princeps, Deusque civitatem vestram quam diutissime rebus fecundis affluentem conferuet. Datæ e Regia nostrâ Sancruciana, Novemb. 1596.

[*Indorsed.*]

*Venice.*

Instructions to Sir William Keith.

XII.—ADRIAN DAMMAN DE BYSTERVELDT AU ROY D'ECOSSE.

iiiij DECEMBRE 1596.\*

SIRE,

Suiuant la permission de vostre maieste, j'ay prins la hardiesse d'eferire cestes, mesmement ayant icy entendu d'une grande armee, qui

\* Adrian Damman de Bystervelt was born in the neighbourhood of Ghent, and afterwards taught Latin in that city. Amongst the Balcarras Papers (in which collection this letter and the succeeding one is preserved) there is a letter dated 3d January 1594, from the United States to James VI. appointing Damman Resident at the Scottish Court. The following is an extract from it:—

“ Nous ne doubtons aucunement que vostre maieste ne soit fort bien asseuree du bon zele et singulière deuotion, qu'auons tousiours porté a lendroit d'Icelle, et le respect qu'auons eu a la grandeur et autorité de vostre maieste. Neanmoins pour en rendre plus ample tesmoignage et declaration, aussy pour auoir d'oreseuuant aucune personne, par le moyen duquel les differens suruenans entre les subjects de vostre maieste, et les habitans de ces pays sur le faict de leurs commerces mutuelles, et train de marchandise puissent estre tant mieulx moyennéz et assopiz, et toute ancienne amitié et bien vueillance reciproqueuse entretenue, ce que par lettres ne se pourroit faire si commodement, auons trouue non moins expedient que necessaire d'employer deuers vostre maieste le S<sup>r</sup> Adrian Damman, luy ayant en premier lieu donné charge de baiser très humblement les mains de vostre maieste de nostre part, l'assurer du grand desir qu'auons de continuer en la deuotion qu'auons tousiours porté a Icelle, et luy declarer sa dicte commission de resider avec la bonne grace, et plaisir de vostre maieste en sa Court et Royaume, comme nostre Agent general. A l'occasion de quoy supplions très humblement vostre maieste qu'il plaise a Icelle l'accepter pour tel, et le tenir en sa Royale protection, en luy donnant benigne audience et credence, toutes et quantefois besoing sera de remonstrer quelque chose a vostre maieste de nostre part, nous assurant que sa presence sera agreable à vostre maieste, et seruira pour continuer vostre Royale accoustumee beneuolence, bonne volonté et affection vers nous laquelle desirons sur toute aultre chose.”

Damman was a great favourite of the King's, and was for several years Professor of Humanity in the University of Edinburgh. He was sent in the year 1596 to the Low Countries, to obtain deli-

fe fait en Espagne, comme par aduertiffemens continuels on cognoit pardeça ; et est l'opinion des gens plus aduifez, que celle foit, ou pour estre enuoyee en Irlande, ou en vostre Royaulme, ou celuy d'Angleterre, chose qui de pres touche vostre maieſte. Je n'ay ſceu doncques moins faire, comme tres affectionné et tres obligé ſeruiteur, que de l'aduertir de ce que deſſus, car j'ay la memoire toute freſche de ce que vostre maieſte mauoit commande de prier meſſeigneurs mes maîtres affin d'auoir par eux aduertances quand juſte occaſion ſe preſenteroit.

Et ſiſtoſt que j'eſtoye arriue en Zelande, j'ay receu lettres de meſdicts feigneurs par lesquelles j'ay eſte commandé de rapporter a vostre maieſte ce que je viens de dire.

Auſſi meſdicts feigneurs m'ont aduertiy de ce que leurs feigneuries ont traitte avec le Roy de France, et la Royne d'Angleterre, y eſtant invitez par leſdictes maieſtes dont de brief ils donneront plaindre cognoiſſance de ledict part a vostre maieſte. Or comme il a pleu a vostre Royale douceur de me dire ſa benigne volonte, touchant ce que vostre maieſte non ſeulement deſire y ſe joindre, ains comme meſdicts feigneurs m'eſcriuent auoir tresbonne memoire de ce que vostre maieſte leur a fait remonſtrer, par ſes ambaffadeurs expres, auoir eſte le premier qui trouuoit vn tel traité, et expedient tres neceſſaire à la conſideration de la Religion Chreſtienne, et pour l'eſtat des princes et feigneurs, en faiſans profeſſion au rang deſquels meſdicts feigneurs treuuent vostre maieſte pour des plus ſignalez et donnez en noſtre temps pour nourriſſeurs à ſon Eglife, par la grace de Dieu.

very of the Earl of Errol, who, as before mentioned, had been arrested there. Besides the original MS. of the *Bartasias* corrected throughout in his own hand, there are the following printed works by him in the Library of the Faculty of Advocates:—

I. *Schediasmata Hadriani Dammani, a Bisterveld Gandavensis.* 1. *De nuptiis serenissimi potentissimique Scotorum regis Jacobi VI. et serenissimæ virginis Annæ, Frederici II. Daniæ, Norvegiæ, etc. Regis, filiæ.* 2. *De tempestate quæ sponſam Regiam navigantem repulit.* 3. *In Atheos elegia.* 4. *In Regis navigationem Danicam emblemata.* 5. *De Coronatione Reginæ Scotorum Annæ.* 6. *De introitu ejus in primariam Regni Urbem Edinburgum.* Edinburgi, excudebat Robertus Walde-graue, An. Dom. 1590. Cum privilegio Regali. 4to.

II. *Hadriani Dammanis a Bysterveldt, D. N. de Fairhill, Bartasias; qui de mundi creatione libri septem; e Gulielmi Salvsti D. N. de Bartas septimana Poemate Francico liberius tralati et multis in locis acuti.* Edinburgi, excudebat Robertus Walde-graue, Typographus Regis, Anno Dom. 1600. Cum privilegio Regio.

Je ne failly de defclairer ladicte vofre volonte, a meffeigneurs les eftats de Zelande avec les circonftances que vofre maieſte me dit alors, et (comme jugent leurs feigneuries) avec grande raifon, ains eux n'en peuuent ; mais, voires, en font ſcandalizes, comme je remonſtreray a vofre maieſte eſtant de retour pardela.

Ne faudray cependant, de fere entendre ladicte benigne volonte vofre de ce que deſſus, à meffeigneurs les eftats generaulx arriuant avecques la grace de Dieu en Hollande de brief, lequel je prie,

Sire,

Avoir vofre Maieſte en ſa diuine proteſtion.

De Middlebourg en Zelande ce iiij<sup>e</sup> de Decembre 1596, Stilo veteri.

De vofre Maieſte le treſhumble et trefaffectione ſeruiteur,

ADRIAN DAMMAN DE BYSTERVELT.

XIII.—ADRIAN DAMMAN DE BYSTERVELT AU ROY D'ESCOſSE.

X DECEMBRE 1596.

SIRE,

Eſtant icy arriue en Hollande, n'ay rien eu plus cher que de faire les commandemens de vofre maieſte, et jceux entendus, Meſſeigneurs les eftats generaulx ont trefaffectueuſement vous remercie, en baiſſant les mains de vofre maieſte bien humblement, dont de brief j'eſpere que le bon dieu, qui miraculeuſement m'a preferue à deux diuerſes fois de naufrage, me donnera le moien de faire mon rapport tout à plain.

En ce pais tout est tranquille, graces a dieu, et florissant en bonnes loix, religion et traffique. Il est vrai qui depuis la derniere flotte et expedition en Espaigne, la navigation n'est si frequente.

Jcy lon dit que la flotte d'Espaigne pour certain ayt esté en chemin, pour se jetter sur l'une des places dont j'ai escript a vostre maiesté. Quand j'estoye en Zelande qui feroit forte de 160 galeons, hulques, nauires, patares et portant (comme l'autres de lan [15]88) feize mille hommes, entre lesquelles il auroit 2100 cheualx, et que par tempeste du 25, 26, 27, et 28 d'Octobre elle feroit dissipee, et auroit perdu jusques a 48 nauires avec cinq ou six milles Espaignolls.

En Alemaigne est grand trouble, car l'armée de l'Empereur, qui estoit de quatre vingts mille combatans est rompue par le Turcq, et en font sur la place demoures morts plus de dix mille, le canon et tresgrand nombre prins, et tout le bagage. On escript jcy pour certain que deuant ladicte bataille deux cerfs se sont venus ruer deuant le palais du dict Empereur, en la ville de Prage et quan apres long combat l'un y dult estre tombé roide mort et l'autre fort bleffé, et au mesme instant le dict palais fust embraisé de feu casuel.

Le Turcq auparavant auoit prins la ville d'Agria tresgrande et forte, et ce par trahison d'un Capitaine Hongrois nommé Bliarj, lequel depuis en est fait Bassa.

Ledit Sultan Mahomet l'ayant fait maistre de la Walachie, laquelle a eux soloit estre tributaire, deuant que ces deux ans passéz ou enuiron, le Prince de la Transiluanie auoit prins le party de l'Empereur et a fait tuer tous les inhabitans et y à fait venir 800<sup>m</sup> Tartares avec femmes et familles.

Le Bassa de Bude affige avec vne aultre armee la ville d'Altenbourg en lestat de Kamora.

Le grand Turcq est avec son armee en personne et y se iournera contre sa coustume. L'Empereur soubz pretexte d'une diet s'est retire de Prage en la ville de Noremburg.

De la mort du Roy d'Espaigne nous auons jcy aus fur aus mesmement que son filz feroit empoissonné quand de quand. Les Marchans de Genes et aultres estant en arriere du dict Roy de huit millions d'or font

refusez en Espagne, et ceux d'Anuers de cinq, chose qui cause en Flandres et Brabant grande alteration.

Le Cardinal d'Austrie est on se faine malade cependant force matelos et mariniers l'assemblent vers Calais.

La paix faicte entre le Roy de France et le Duc de Sauoye est rompue a cause que le parlement n'a voulu permettre au dict Duc le Marquizat de Sallusse.

Les treues entre le Turq et les Polonnois sont renouuelles non obstant l'ambassade et sollicitude du Pape au contraire, et ce, diton, a cause, que le chancelier de Poloigne est ennemy professe de la maison d'Austrie. La dict Alemaigne est aussi miserablement mangee de la peste. La dict Cardinal prepare ses forces jusques a 18<sup>m</sup> hommes de guere de ce coste et de France on se prepare aussi.

J'espere de brief auoir l'honneur et heur de dire d'auantage a vostre maieste.

A laquelle je baissi treshumblement ses mains.

De la Haye ce 8 de Decembre 1596, Stilo rouo.

De vostre serenissime Maieste treshumble seruiteur,

ADR. DAMMAN.

XIV.—LES ESTATS GENERAULX DES PROVINCES VNIES AU SERENISSIME  
ROY D'ESCOSSE.

XXVIII DECEMBRE 1596.

SIRE,

Nous auons entendu par le rapport du Sr Damman nostre agent, ce quil a pleu a vostre maieste nous faire communiquer par luy de la constitution de l'estat d'Escoffe, \* au temps quil en est party, esperans

\* In Thorpe's Catalogue of MSS. August 1835, occurs "Rapport de Monsieur Adrian Damman, agent des Etats des Provinces Unies en Escosse sur l'estat de ce Royaume d'Escosse (1600)."

que icelle vostre maïeste aura depuis tellement pourueu, et donne ordre a tout ce qui pourroit causer plus grands mescontentemens et aigreurs entre les subiects des deux Royaulmes quil n'y arriuera par semblables accidens aucun dangier ou inconuenient, du quelle le Roy d'Espaigne nostre ennemi commun se pourroit preualoir en ceste coniuncture au preiudice non tant seullement de l'estat desdictes Royaulmes en particulier, ains de celuy de toute la Chrestienté en general: Nous remersions, Sire, vostre maïeste bien humblement de cest honneur et correspondence, principalement de la demonstration de sa bonne volonte et affection enuers cest estat, avecq assurance que nous vous en demeurerons tousiours fort obligez, comme aussi trespapareilleza toutes occasions pour correspondre ceste grande faueur par noz bien humbles seruices aultant que nos affaires le pourront aulcunement permeetre. Ainsy qu'auons en chargé nostredict agent de le declarer plus amplement ce vostre dicté maïeste, supplians bien humblement quil vous plaïse luy donner en ce regard entiere foy, comme a nous mesmes, et au createur,

Sire,

Quil Oëtroy a vostre maïeste en trespapariète fante longue et trefheureuse vie. De la Haye le 28<sup>e</sup> Decembre 1596.

De vostre Maïeste bien humble seruiteurs,

LES ESTATZ GENERAUX DES PROVINCES  
VNIES DU PAYS BAS.

Par ordonnance desdictes Estatz,

C. AERSENS.\*

Au Serenissime Roy d'Escoffe.

\* Balcarras Papers.

## XV.—EARL OF HUNTLY TO JAMES VI.

PLEIS YOUR MAIESTIE,

Eftir the suffering of monie hard and uechtie troublis uithin this contrey, and at the last, eftir the banishment of my self, to gif your maiestie gretar proof of my obediens and affection, I am retournit of intention halie to put my self in your maiestis uill, and to direct my baill actions heireftir as falbe maist agreeable therto, not onlie in amending in quhatfumeur it fall pleis your maiestie think that I haue offendit towards your maiestie self, bot alfueill to the kirk, contrey and pairtie, as it fall pleis your maiestie to set down the uay; for, fra this furth, I haue dedicat my self to follou your maiestie in all respects,\* and this I esteim the gretest amendement I can offer, albeit my offens uar neuer sua great, and your maiestie knauis that the prins pairt to his subiects suld be as the fathers to the childrin, not be rigour to feik thair utter ruin (albeit raclellie thay haue faillit), bot be humiliation to accept thair amendement, the ernist defyr I haue to do your maiestie humble feruis, and that I be not langer

\* The Earl of Huntly was much favoured by James, and, according to popular rumour, his Lordship murdered the Earl of Murray at the instigation of his royal master, who had become jealous of the "Bonnie Earl" (as he is termed in the beautiful ballad on his death), from the praise bestowed on him by Queen Anne. Whatever the cause was, true it is, that Lord Murray was attacked by Huntly, at his seat of Dunyvirhill—his house set on fire, and himself slain. Subsequently he became mixed up with Lords Angus and Errol in the matter of the Spanish Blanks. See Pitcairn's Criminal Trials, vol. i. p. 310. On the 3d of October 1594, he defeated, at the battle of Glenlivet, the Earl of Argyle, who had gone against him—a victory very beneficial to the country people, who otherwise would have been "miserably spoiled" by the Highlanders; Spottiswood's Church History, 1677, folio, p. 409. Huntly and the two other Popish Lords retired abroad, but finding they were little respected there, became anxious to return; and as Huntly was still secretly favoured by the King, this might have been accomplished but for the clergy, who were not easily propitiated. They were not indisposed to favour Angus and Errol, but Huntly was particularly obnoxious. When James hinted the thing to Mr Robert Bruce, he replied, "I see, sir, that your resolution is to take Huntly in favour, which if you do I will oppose, and you shall chuse whether you will lose Huntly or me, for us both you cannot get." The King never forgave the speaker.

debarrit therfra, is the occasion that I haue taine the hardiment to utter the mor plainlie, be this present, my intention, requesting your maiestie to grant me that fauour, as to be relaxit from the profes of excommunication ather be your maiestie and confell, or than be chargis direct to the ministrie of thir pairs to that effect, or be oni uther uay your maiestie fall think maist expedient, that thaireftir I may haue that honour as to cum to your maiestis auin prefens, quhar I fall accomplis, Goduilling, all that I haue promesit be thir presentis; hoping that your maistie will consider my gud intention and mening in this, and that your maiestie will not debar him from your maiestis prefens and feruis, quhais actions, affection, and obediens fall gif proof of his gud mening. And becaus the hichest point of my accusation bygaine hes bein vpon inbringing of straingeris, nou your maiestie fall haue proof of me in that point in the contrar, be being the first to uair my bluid aganis thaeme, quhan euer it fall pleis your maiestie to command me. Sua, expecting your maiestis fauorable ansuer, eftir the kissing maist humble of your maiestis hand, I uill end, uissing at God to giue your maiestie grace to tak that cours quhilk is maist to your maiestis honour, weilfair, and union of your contrey, and to grant your maiestie lang and prosperous rengne. Uretin this penult of December [1596].

Your Maiestis maist humble subiect and  
affectionat seruiteur to my luyis end,

HUNTLYE.\*

To the Kings Maiestie.

\* Balcarras Papers.



## XVI.—EARL OF ERROL TO JAMES VI.

SIR,

As in all thir tymes past, quhairin I haif sufferit fa gryt trwbles and irrecoverable lossis, God bearis me witnefs of a sincer intentione and dewtifull affectione to your maiesties seruice, howsoever my vprycht meaning hes bein exponit ewill be vtheris, and the effectis thair of convertit to my awin damag, fa now, as diuerse tymes affoir, I doe maist hwmillie craif your hienefs pardoune for my baldnefs in offering my self be this present to your maiestie in all thingis, fa far as appertenis or may be thocht the dewtie of a maist hwmill and faythfull subiect and seruant to his foueraing and maister; quhair of I euer haif bein, am, and falbe, reddie to gif pruiſ with the hazart of my lyf and los of my blood.

In consideratioune quhair of, I doe maist hwmillie beseik, that, as heirtofoir, your hienefs hes nocht disdanit to refaue my letteris, and gif ear also to sic of my freindis as maid fuit for me, fa now lykways it may pleafs your maiestie patientlie to heir of this berar quhat, on my pairt, I haif directit him to shawe and hwmillie craif of your hienefs, and to instruct him of your maiesties will in all.

And thus cessing farther to impeshe your hienefs with langar letter, in maist hwmillie kissing your maiesties handis, and praying God to bring all your hienefs verteous desingis to the wisht end, I taik leif. The 25 day of Januar 1596. [1597.]

Your Maiesties euer maist luifing, faythful,  
and obedient subiect and seruant, to his  
last breath,

ERROLL.\*

\* Balcarras Papers.

## XVII.—LE COMTE DE NASSAU AU ROY D'ECOSSE.

10 DE JANVIER 1597.\*

SIRE,

Le Sieur Damman, a son retour en ces pais bas, ma fait entendre que vostre maïeste me fait ceste faueur de me continuer tousjours ses faveurs roïalles, et de me tenir du nombre de ses plus affectionner ferviteurs, de quoy je me sens lui estre infiniment obligé. Je ne voy voulu laisser retourner sans qu'il portast de mes lettres a vostre maïeste pour lui assurer de nouveau de l'affection, que je porte a son service et que je m'estimeray tousjours tres heureux, quand les occasions s'en offriront, et qu'il vous plaira, Sire, m'honorer de vos commandemens de vous faire connoître par les effects, que je suis,

Vostre tres humble et tres obeïssant serviteur,

MAURICE DE NAUSSAU.†

A la Haye, ce 10 de Janvier —97.

Au Roy d'Ecosse.

[*Indorsed.*]

“ 10 February 1597. Compte Maurice to his Maïestie.”

\* Balcarras Papers.

† Prince Maurice died in the spring of the year 1625. “ The Prince,” says Baron de Maurier, “ was very strong and indefatigable in labor; he appeared lesser than he was by being full and fat; his face was plump and ruddy; his beard fair, which he wore very large and broad; he always made use of little pleated ruffs about his neck; he never clothed himself but after the same fashion, with the same stuff, and that always of a sort of brown or musk colour; his doublet was of silk with gold stripes; the rest of his clothes were woollen, but his cloaks or long-coats were faced with velvet: I speak of his common habit, and not of those that were designed for great

## XVIII.—PRESBYTERY OF ABERDEEN TO THE MINISTERS OF LOTHIAN.

BRETHIER,

This is to aduertife how we of this ministrie in this countrey ar chargit be his maiefties letteris, vnder pain of horning, to gif conference to the Erle of Huntley, and farder ar informit that he hes his maiefties letteris to charge ws to refais his offeris, and gif thai be agreabill with Godis word and weill of the countray, to abfolue him fra the sentence of excommunicatioun, or than to compeir within fyftein dayis next after the charge before his maieftie and counfall, and to gif a reafon quhy we will not do the fam. Farder, we ar informit be fun of his freindis that he will offer to fubferyue the Confessioun, and gif caution of his freindis for bygane offenceis, as the kirk thall inioyne, albeit we fie not as yit that he is refoluit in the articles of the Confessioun in particular: And therfor, we being heir a few number conuenit to haif gifin conference to him, nocht feing him fa instant in futing therof, as be petitionis gifin in to ws, and fubferyuit be him, quherof ʒe fall refais with thir presentis a iust copie, crafsing of ws that we wald abfolue him for the caufis therin contenit, defyred of him a day to conuen our bretheren of all our presbyteries, that, with common aduyfe, we mycht gif answer. Also Pa[trick] Murray, his maiefties domestik, hes schawin ws fundrie instructiouns of his maieftie, crafsing our answer to the fam, quha hes requyrit ws to affemble our felfis, and declaris that he hes a commissioun to requyr our bretheren of Murray to conven with ws, and to refaue our answervis to his instructiounis, quherbe we

feasts and public assemblies. He often wore on his hat a band of diamonds; he was never without a girdle, to which was fastened a sort of belt for his sword that was gilt. I never saw him in any other habit, and yet I have minded him a thousand times at the French church, in the castle at the Hague, which heretofore was a chappel for the Counts of Holland, and often at my father's, whither he used to come either to eat or play at chess, which was his chief diversion."—*Memoirs of Princes of Orange*, p. 148.

ar chargit to subscryue the band, to disallow the ministeris of Edinburgh as seditiouse and treasonable; also declaring the nulling of the commissioun of the Generall Assembly be his maiesties counsell, and consequently of any inhibitioun maid be thaim to stay ws from resauing the erle of Huntley, and that na delay be langer wfit in his resauing be ws, than be the presbiterie of St Androwis, wes vfit in his excommunication, and that the absolutioun may be ratefeit heirafter in the Generall Assembly, as the excommunication wes lang after the sentence pronuncit. Item, that we suld not dout quhat form of satisfactioun be suld mak, feing the acte of Parliament, maid anno 1572, intituled anent disobedientis quhilk salbe resauit to our foueran lordis mercie and pardon, declars the sam, quhilk is nathing els, but to subscryue the Confessioun of Fayth, and sweir accordingly. Item, we ar chargit to resolue the questiounis presented be his maiestie aganist the last of Februar in Perth, and schewing ws that a number of all presbiteries, thair with 50w, most discreit, hes affirmit thair is litle questioun but the hail ministrie will agre to his maiesties intentioun in all those controuerisies. Quhairfore we haif writtin baith to our bretheren of the Merns and Murray to send sum of thair number best instructed to keip heir with ws our prouinciall assembly vpon the aucht of Februar, with common aduyse to gif answer to his maiestlies instructiounis, and the erle of Huntley his petitiounis: And for the sam cause hes writtin to 50w and the bretheren thair, for 50ur counfall, and mainlie that ye will imploy 50ur credit with sik bretheren as ar maist gratiouse to his maiestie, to obtain a continewatioun of all thir chargis and answers, till the Generall Assembly nexte at Perth; specially feing my lord Huntley is not resoluit in the doutis of religioun, and we ar redy to gif him daylie conference to that effecte. This day he wes at fermoun in our kirk, bath afor and efter none, and hard the doctrin, and remusit him self at the prayer, and we hope if he be found willing afore the tym appointed to the nexte Generall Assembly to do mekle till it for his resolutioun. But if 5e can not get ws continewatioun of his maiestie, we pray 50w send ws the counfall and [aduyse] of the bretheren maist discreit thair with 50w, with all diligence, that we may haif the sam befor the 8 of Februar. In the mein tym commendis our felis to 50ur ernes prayeris to God for ws,

as we lykwyfe do pray for 3ow. From Aberden, the penult of Januar 1596. [1597].\*

*Indorfed:*

Copie of the letter sent be the prebiterie  
of Aberdein to the Ministers of Lou-  
thian anent the Erle of Huntlie, pe-  
nult Januarij 1596.†

XIX.—ROBERT LORD CRICHTON OF SANQUHAR TO KING JAMES VI.

SIR,

Finding na fair commoditie till now, I wes constrainit till delay the fending 3our maiesties letters, quhill I ranconterritt this gentilman, quha promiffit till delyuer thame out of his awin hand. At my arryual in France, I went immediatlíe to the army befor Amiens,‡ quhair I delyueritt 3our maiesties letters to the king and Monsieur de Rohan,§ and retiritt thair anfuers, quhilkis it will pleis your maiestie refflaif fra this beirir. I rememberitt lykwayis 3our maiesties commendatiouns to Monsieur du Mayene, quhometo 3our maiestie in my simpill opinioun suld do verie weill to wryte, and gif it wer bot a letter of complimentis till enter-teney his affectioun to 3our seruice, for 3our maiestie may mak 3our count to draw mair seruice out of that prince alane, and 3e haif ado with

\* His Lordship was finally absolved and reconciled to the church. See Melros Papers, vol. ii, p. 613 to 618. Edinburgh, 1837. 4to. A very amusing account of the ceremonial upon the occasion of receiving his Lordship and the Earl of Errol to the King's peace, at Aberdeen, is given in a letter from Thomas Mollisone to Mr Robert Paip, Advocate, 27th June 1597. *Analecta Scotica*, vol. i. p. 299.

† Balcarras Papers.

‡ This reference to the troops of Henry IV. being before Amiens fixes the date of the letter, as the Spaniards having in 1597 surprised that city, the King immediately besieged and retook it, in spite of the efforts of Archduke Albert. Upon learning the news of the surprisal, his majesty said, "Let us go; we have acted the King of France long enough; it is now time to act the King of Navarre."

§ The Viscount de Rohan, a distinguished Huguenot warrior. He was created a duke and peer in 1603, was mortally wounded at the battle of Rheinfield, and died on the 13th of April 1638, at the Abbey of Kunisfield, in the Canton of Bern. His corpse was interred in the Great Church of Geneva. He bequeathed his armour to the Republic of Venice, and it was received by the senators with extraordinary respect. Henry IV. having paid his addresses to his sister Catherine, she told him that she was too poor to be his wife, and of too good a family to be his mistress.

men, then a greit pairt of the rest of your forraine freindschips, as weil for his valour and experience, quhilk I can beir witnes in this army he hes schawin at this tyme to surpasse all the captaines in France, as for the greit affection he caryis towards your maiestie, quhair of I may also beir record, as haiffing it out of his awin mouth. I mynd, God willing, to taik journey towards Italy within four or fyue dayis, quhilk culd be na foner; for being engadgit with the king be his command, I culd nocht with my creidit leif him till he was reteirit himself, and had put the army in garnifoun. I will ceifs to wryte your maiestie onie occurrents, for I am certaine ye haif thame frescher and frome a bettir place be Ingland; always I haif informit the berar of sic as wer currant in this court for the present, quha will informe your maiestie at length. As for my awin pairt (Sir), I wald onlie wifs at God, that I mycht be that happy anis in my lyfe to do your maiestie onie aggreable seruice, as ane quha finding him self fa far chargit in obligatioun, nocht onlie as a commoun and naturall subiect, bot be infinit particular fauours, that I am forie that I am wnable to gif your maiestie at this tyme onie small recognoffance of resentment, bot man intreit your maiestie to content your self to reslaif of him, quha man remaine rather in hairt then habilitie to answer thame, in place of thay humbill thankis, that I aw a deuotioun of mynd fa greit, that it dar compair evin with the greitnes of your maiesties fauour. Sua, humbly submitting my nakit good will and pore seruice to your maiesties gracious censure, quha can serue your self of the litile meritt of wtheris to maik your fauours the greiter, I hoip to comporte my self, sua that your maiestie fall iudge me for a faithfull and affectionat seruand, quha seiking all meinis to inhabill himself to do your seruice, fall neuir ceifs, till sum happy occasioun present, quhairin your maiestie may sie that thair is nane liuing, quha caryis a mair honest and trew hairt to your seruice, then your maiesties maist humble and affectionat seruitour,

SANCHAR.\*

Paris, 3 September [1597.]

To the Kingis Maiestie.

\* Robert, sixth Lord Crichton of Sanquhar, had charters of the barony of Sanquhar, 27th July 1609, and of Gowrie House in Perth, 10th January 1611. In 1605, whilst on a visit to Lord

## XX.—PRIVATE INSTRUCTIONS BY KING JAMES VI. TO HIS AMBASSADORS.

A Private Instruction to the Erle of Marre and Abbot of Kinloffe, my Ambassadouris towardis the Quene of Eng-  
lande.

YE fall temper and frame all youre dealing uith the quene or counfall, by the aduise of my freindis thaire, quhose counfall ye fall directlie follou in all youre behauioure thaire, uith these referuations only, quhiche by tounge I deliuered unto you, and if that actuellie thay performe thaire, promiseis on thaire pairt, I giue you by these presentis of my owin hande, ample powaire to giue thaim full assurance of my affitting thaim accordingle.

JAMES R.\*

Norreys, in fencing with a fencing-master called Turner, his Lordship accidentally got one of his eyes put out, and was for some time in danger of his life. Seven years afterwards he hired two assassins, one of them called Robert Carlyle, to murder the unfortunate Turner, which was effected by the last named person, who shot him with a pistol, 11th May 1612, for which he and his accomplice were executed. Lord Sanquhar absconded, but was apprehended, tried, and sentenced to die. He was hanged on a gibbet with a silken halter, erected in Great Palace Yard, before the gate of Westminster-hall, 29th June 1612. He died penitent, professing the Roman Catholic religion. He married at St Anne's, Blackfriars, 16th April 1608, Anne, daughter of Sir George Farmer of Easton, in the county of Northampton, but had no issue by her. He left all his property to his natural son, but the heir-male, William, seventh Lord Sanquhar, disputed the succession, and matters were adjusted upon a reference to James VI., who issued notes of an award, an extract from which was printed by Lord Hailes, *Memorials of the Reign of James VI.* p. 51. See also the *Melros Papers*, pages 127, 132, 133, 264, 265. The King ordered that the magistrates of Perth should take an "exact count and inventorie of the baill gudis, gear, plenishing, hingings, siluer-work, and quhat else is within his house in Perth, or any other part of the burgh, and put them in sure custodie."—*Chronicle of Perth*, p. 13. Great interest was used to save his Lordship's life, but James was inexorable; less, it is said, from an extraordinary love of justice, than because his Lordship had not resented an insult offered to his Majesty in a company in Paris, where some one had observed that it was no wonder James was called Solomon, since he was the son of David—*i. e.* David Rizzio. His Lordship, if the story be true, suffered not because he had killed one man, but because he had not killed two. This letter is amongst the *Balcarras MSS.*

\* Autograph of the King. *Balfour MSS.* This embassy was sent in February 1601, ostensibly for the purpose of congratulating Elizabeth upon her suppression of the Earl of Essex's insane

## XXI.—FROM AN UNKNOWN PERSON \* PERHAPS TO THE LORD OF KINLOSS.

ALBEIT that I haue not aunfwered your lordships letter, neuerthelefs I hoope that my silence shal receiue that fauorabl construccion which my innocency may challenge of right; for I was resolu'd to commit no letter to the hands of fortune, seeing that the expectation of a litl tyme might secure the passage of thoose papers, which I decreed to consecrate only to your self. And if the debt I owe you might bee payed by woordes, I would frankly spende al my tyme in acknowledgement of your fauours, which beare fruits of such forte, that so soone as I haue receaued them, they begin to bud forth, and to produce new blossomes. Neuerthelefs, my hoope is, that al the world shal knowe, that power in requiting hath rather fayled mee, then will. Therfor, pardon mee, I beseech you, if, wanting meanes to discharge the debt I owe, I am constrained to runn on the old lkoare, and to spende stil out of your lordship's stocke.

I haue at length sent his majesty an abstract of such gentlemen's names as are in greatest accompt in Englande, the greatest part wherof

attempt at rebellion. The letter written by James to the English Queen is printed in Crawford's *Lives of the Officers of State*, p. 403; the real object was to conciliate his friends in London, and settle with Cecil and the rest of them the line of procedure to be adopted in the event of Elizabeth's demise. It was on this occasion that the secret correspondence was arranged, which has been partially printed by Lord Hailes. Edin. 1766, 12mo. "The Queen received Lord Mar very graciously, and besides other things presented him with a very fyne bason and lawer of mother of pearle, with several rubies and pearles sett therein, which the family have this hour."—*History of the Family of Marr*, collected in the year 1705, by Mr George Erskin, Bailif of Alloa. MS. in possession of the Editor.

\* This letter, which is written in a very legible and distinct hand, has the figure 7 substituted for the writer's name; who he may have been the Editor has been unable to ascertain. There is another letter from the same person to the King, in which the proper names are also indicated by figures; and, to increase the difficulty, the figure 7 is in it applied to some other individual. Both letters are amongst the Balfour MSS.



are knowne vnto my self: the rest I haue had intelligence of by many way questions, and sundry relations of thoose that weer well assured of that which they informed. And concerning the apologetical preface, I haue deliuered my opinion, wherein I jumpe just with your lordship's censure therof, hooping that his highnes will take your woord in my behalfe, that my difference from the forme of an apology, springeth not from any spirit of contradiction, but from the obedience I owe, to answer truly vnto euery demaunde his majesty shal propounde vnto mee. Also, I haue sent a discourfiue aunswer vnto certeyne questions, wherein I suppose, that though perhaps I may seeme to shoote at rouers, I haue not shott very wide from the marke. Our queene is trubled with a rhewme in her arme, which vexeth her verry much; besides the greefe shee hath conceiued for my lord of Effex his deathe:\* shee sleepeeth not so much by day as shee used, nether taketh rest by night: her delight is to sit in the darke, and sometimes with shedding of tears to bewayle Effex. This is the reason that wee haue so many horse about London, the particularitis wherof I refer to Mr Foules. In any case, let mee intreate you to sollicite his majesty to fend often, and though the journey bee longe and peynesfull, I doubt not, but that Mr Foules will gladly vndertake the charge, wherein so good seruice may bee performed: for it is expedient that the messenger bee skilful in our present estate, trusted by us, and knowne to bee confidante with the kinge. Concerning my self, or the seruice which I may performe, ether in this place, or in any whatsoeuer, I protest that I remayne firme, and ready to bee employed whensoever his majesty shal grace mee with his commandements. For I breathe no other contentment then that which may turne to the aduancement of so gracious a prince, and the ease of his distressed cuntry. In what state wee stande at this present, may better bee related by Mr Foules, Quæque ipse miserrima vidit, then by a short narration of perpetual woes.

Therfor I will aduertise your lordship of your owne affairs, wherein I haue traueyled to the vttermoast of my power, and gotten a particular

\* Beheaded 25th February 1601.

information for al Caris proceedings touching Whorlton.\* The common voice of the tennants is, that hee payed only a 1000 marks to the queen; but hauing conferred with himself, I founde him much discontented, as hee pretended, for the great price he had payed, videlicet, 1800 lib.; but I beleue him not therin, nether doth 5 or I think it fitt that any thirde perfon shoulde compoude with him for itt; for it is certeyne that, feing it is already leaced, it wil not bee bought but at an vnreasonabl rate, and the tyme will come when he wilbe glad to take half the mony hee hath disburfed, for his interest therin. The queene hath fold a greate parte of the Duchy of Cornwall and Lancafter, which landes muft ether be recalled, as wee haue a president therof in Henry the Fourth's tyme, or boughte agayne to vnite them to the crowne. I haue sent your Lordship a draught of the furuay of Whorlton, which I gott cunningly out of the checker. Likewife, you shal receive a copy of a letters pattents, taken out of the R[ecords?] which is counted to conteyne the moast general woordes that may bee used in a good and perfect affurance. And albeit, that the name of a rectory agree not with your manners, it importeth not, feing that mutatis mutandis, for as much as concerneth the names, the whole procefs of the graunte is to be obserued. I feare that you can hardly reade itt, for it is written in badd Lattin and abbreviations, which is the manner of the clarks that copy anny recorde out of the chauncery. The graunte you sent mee, with the claufe of renewinge the letters pattents in die illo, is held to bee better then any other affurance that can nowe bee made by the kinge. I will deteyne your Lordship no longer: bcfecching you to build upon

\* Whorlton, in the district of Cleveland, Yorkshire, had been granted by Henry VIII. to Matthew Earl of Lennox, and Margaret his wife. From them it appears to have passed into the hands of Henry Earl of Northumberland, who shot himself in the Tower, 21st June 1585; as, by an inquisition *post mortem*, taken at Topcliffe (2d October), it is proved that he was seised of the castle and manor of Whorlton. Possession afterwards seems to have been resumed by the crown; and the Carey referred to in the letter may not unreasonably be conjectured to have been Sir Robert Carey, afterwards Earl of Monmouth, whose father, Lord Hunsdon, was materially related to Elizabeth. The advice given relative to the treating with this person, materially supports the presumption that the party addressed was Lord Bruce of Kinloss, as he afterwards obtained a crown grant of the estate, which is now in possession of his descendant the Marquis of Ailesbury, one of whose titles is Earl Bruce of Whorlton.

that good foundation of my affection, which your merite hath firmly layd ; for my desir is to streyne my vttermoast ability to bee alwaies of the formeast in

Your Lordships seruice,

.7.

XXII.—JACOBUS REX SCOTORUM, INVICTISSIMO PRINCIPI SHAUGH ABBAS.  
1601.

JACOBUS, Dei Gratia, Rex Scotorum, Omnumque Insularum circumjacentium : ac Regnorum potentissimorum Angliæ et Hiberniæ summo ejusdem Jehonæ nutu Hæres proximus.

Potentissimo et invictissimo Principi Shaugh Abbas, Perfarum, Medorum, Parthorum, Hircanorum, Carmanorum, Margianorum, populorum, cis et ultra Tigrim Fluvium et omnium intra mare Caspium et Persicum finum, nationum atque gentium Imperatori : Salutem et rerum prosperarum foelicissimum incrementum.

Cum non ita pridem, nobilissimus ille Eques Anglus, ANTONIVS SHERLEIVS • Legatione sibi a Majestate vestra commissâ pulcherrimè functus apud

• Sir Anthony Shirley, knight, was the second son of Sir Thomas Shirley of Wistenston, Sussex, by Anne, daughter of Sir Thomas Kempe. He was protected by Robert Earl of Essex, under whose auspices he undertook several voyages. † Queen Elizabeth sent him in 1596 into America, and afterwards, in the winter of 1598, into Italy, to assist the Ferrarese, who had revolted from the Pope. He subsequently went with his brother Sir Robert to Persia, where he was favourably received, and in 1601 was employed by Shah Abbas to negotiate a general alliance with all the Christian powers against the Turks. His Majesty, however, detained Sir Robert, “being younger, and therefore the more to be tendered, and not every day exposed to new dangers.”—Purchas, his Pilgrims, Part II, p. 1407. The letter from the Balfour MSS. by James to the Persian Monarch refers to this embassy. After many vicissitudes of life and strange adventures, this remarkable person died in Spain, in the year 1636. The exploits of Sir Anthony and his two brothers form the subject of a very entertaining dramatic piece by Day, Rowley, and Wilkins, intitled “The Travels of the Three English Brothers, Sir Thomas, Sir Anthony, and Sir Robert Shirley, an Historical Play. 1607, 4to.”

multos Principes, in Aula etiam Cæsarea, sapienter fortiterque permulta de rebus Perficis perorasset : dici non potuit quantum splendoris nomini vestro accesserit, cum omnes publice testarentur, neque per vastas solitudines, aspera juga, vel insolita maria, ullam virtuti vestræ inviam esse viam : num cum plurima apud nos ab historicis commemorantur bella factaque egregia, ab Imperatoribus Perficis, terra marique gesta, in quibus fortuna maximam partem proprio quodam suo jure expetere videatur. In ista Legatione, qua sancta hospitalitatis jura, et dulcia communis humanitatis officia inter nos, nostra regna, nostrosque subditos constitui, coli et constanter conservari queant, non hoc fortunæ sed consilii, non casus sed virtutis, certissimum argumentum esse constat. Nec in re tam plana halucinari debemus, quin omnipotentis Dei summa providentia ratum esse fateamur ; vt fortissimus ille miles Sherleyvs, nullis vel parentum illustrium præcibus, vel amplissimi patrimonii spe flecti potuit, quo minus dulcissima sua patria derelicta in sinum Majestatis vestræ seipsum fortunamque suam conjicerit ; speramus itaque brævi affuturum tempus cum ex mutuo omnium Principum consensu, infesta gentis Turcicæ insignia lacera et sub pedibus contrita, ludibrio et risu exponentur. Veruntamen illud nos male habet, quod in re tam seria et tam necessaria de Anglorum auxiliis nihil promittere, nedum sperare ausi sumus. Herois etenim Comitissæ Essexij, qui ad omnes bellicas expeditiones fulminis instar paratus esse solebat, violenta ac inopinata mors, Regni illius incolæ adeo obstupescit, vt interna potius timere, quam externa sperare, malint : maxima quippe pars eorum qui Anglorum habenas hodie moderantur privatis odijs non solum inter se certant ; veruntamen propter initam a mercatoribus suis cum Turcis amicitiam, strenue, huic nostræ legationi sese opponunt. Quod cum per confidentes nostros exploratum haberemus illico Equitem Sherleyvm admonere et hortari, non dubitavimus, ne vana et Majestati vestræ non profutura sibi ipsi exitalia inciperet. Qui quidem auctoritati ac consilio nostro acquiescens, exulem se fieri quodammodo passus est, vt posthac cum corona illius imperii ad nos devoluta fuerit, vberiores fructus laborum suorum reportare possit. Nam cum Regnum Angliæ munitissima classe instructum, ac totius orbis circumnavigatione celeberrimum terrorem maximum genti Ottomanæ incutiat, dubium

non est, quin diuino spirante numine ex istis amicitiae felicibus auspicijs, vobis et nostris eternam gloriam cum summa vtilitate conjunctam aliquando finis consequuntur. Magnanimum itaque Equitem Sherleyvm Majestati vestrae ita commendatum esse velimus, vt pote hominem omnis generis armorum, et politicae rationis peritissimum, in quo minus valent verba quam fides, manus quam animus, vtrisque tamen insignibus praeclarus. Et si fortitudinem illam quae virtutis stirpe stipata mirum suae indolis specimen toties edidit, conseruatam et nutritam fore intellexerimus vniuerso mundo palam innotescere faciemus, plus virium habuisse beneuolentiam ad nos coniungendos, quam terram et mare ad nos longissime seperandos. Deus Optimus Maximus salutem omnem et perpetuam vestrae concedat Majestati. Datum in Scotia in inelito nostro Palatio Edinburgi, Anno Mundi 5680, Domini nostri Jesu Christi 1601, Regnorum vero nostrorum xxxiiii.

Amantissimus frater tuus,

JACOBUS R.

Potentissimo et inuictissimo Principi, SHAUGH ABBAS, Persarum, Medorum, Parthorum, Hircanorum, Carmianorum, Margianorum populorum, cis et vltra Tigrim fluuium, et omnium intra mare Caspium et Perficum finum, nationum atque gentium, Imperatori.

XXIII.—SIR JAMES COLVILLE TO THE LORD OF KINLOSS.

COUSING,

Efter my hartly commendation, I culd not omit thir fev lynis that ze may knau of my prosperus ariuel to this toun, defyring zou to haue my maist humble seruice recommendit to his hines. It greifis mekil in my passing throuche Ingland, the los he hes for laik of sum resident honest man, in quhom baithe his maistie nicht confyd, and sik as interly

low him nicht affur them felfis; for, to be plain, I dout vtheris for caufis I vill not vret. I pray the Lord grant him that grace that he may faueur them quha lovis him aboue al. I dout not bot or now 3e haue refautit my letter from Londoun, defyryng ernesly to knau the succes of that maiter aganis his maieftie. I hoip vithe the grace of God to difcouer mair in that nor his maieftie hes 3it hard; as alfo in fundry other practifes aganis him. At my firft cumming I heir no bruit but of ver, quhilk I beleue not, albeit it be faid heir his maieftie is makand for Lion for the fecours of Geneua, quhilk I dout not 3e haue hard hes falziit to be takin be the duik of Sauoy: fua is it vretin heir be the governouris nepho from curt. It thuld haue bein takin be ane pitard: they var anes fyve hundrethe within the toun, quherof at left remanit 300 vithe the principal quho commandit. Monsieur de Buillon cummis not, bot the king hes fend ane Commartyn to him: I knau not his meffage. The greteft thing is imput to him that he thud haid fum condition of filuer for agreing the Archiduk and Compte Mons.

It is not thocht that he haid ony deling vithe Marifhal de Biron,\* in ony fort to haue bein ane Espain3ol; alwayis vithe my nixt I fhall do gud vil to aduertis 3ou. For the reft of Marifhal de Biron his confpiracy, the king hes, as I can lerne, pardonit al. For Monsieur Monbarro, gouverneur of Rems, his maieftie defyrit to knau, quhither he vald haue grace or iuftyce: his anfuer vas iuftice, for he haid neuer failit to his maieftie,

\* Charles Gontault, Due de Biron, Peer and Marshal of France, was condemned to death, and his effects confiscated, the 31st of July 1602. Of the justice of his sentence there can be no question; but when his former services to Henry IV. are remembered, we cannot help thinking that it might have been commuted. "The executioner," says Pierre Mathieu, "struck him so high above the nape of the neck as hee glanced vpon his lawe-bones, and left a great tuft of hair on his neck. Being dead, hee shewed choller in his countenance, as they write of the souldiers which died at the battle of Cannas. Every one departed, commending the Kings justice, and lamenting the misery of so valiant a man, beleeving that of long time they should not see his equall." Grimeston's translation of the General Historie of France [Lon.] 1624. Folio, p. 1049. When Baron de Biron, he consulted a magician at Paris as to his future fortunes, who told him, "That only a back blow of the Bourguignon would keepe him from being a king." This prediction was remembered when in the Bastille, and having learned that the executioner of Paris was a Bourguignon, he exclaimed, "I am a dead man." That admirable old poet, Chapman, wrote a Tragedy in two parts, entitled "The Conspiracie, and Tragedy of Charles Duke of Byron, Marshall of France, acted lately in two playes at the Black-friars and other publique stages." London, 1625. 4to.

faif that he hed ingagit al he haid for his feruice: it is rather thoct Mairithal de Bryfak his il vil nor ony other thing agains him, faue the takin doon of Fontineles\* hed, quhilk vas fend to Rhems, quhilk he caufit tak doon, he being his kinfman.† I man 3it erneslly request 3ou to remember my coufing, Captain Coluill, to his maieftie, quha hes lofit al his eſperance for his maiefties feruice, and hopis he ſhal ſhortly git better prouf nor he hes 3it doon. I vret to 3ou afor tuiching meſter Dauid Foulis;‡ lat him mak 3ou priue to the maiter; for the man is content, and deſyris only the furtie of convoy. Al vther thingis to neu occation, and my hartly commendationis to 3our brother. Praying 3ou that this may ferue 3ou and ſir Thomas Erſkyne,§ I remain

Your maift loving Coufing,

JAMES COLUILL  
of Weimes.

From Calys our firſt of Januar [1603.¶]

To my Lord,  
My Lord of Kinlos.

Ther vas neuer ſo mayny paſſageris heir away. I pray the Lord it be for gud; but his maieftie hes gret caus to luik to him ſelf.

\* The Baron de Fontenelles was broken on the wheel for his participation in Biron's conspiracy.

† Monbaraut was committed to prison.

‡ Knighted 13th May 1603, and created a Baronet 6th February 1619. He was cofferer to Prince Henry, and afterwards to his brother. He died in the year 1642.

§ Viscount Fenton, 18th March 1606, and Earl of Kellie, 12th March 1619. He was one of the individuals who aſſiſted to reſcue the King from the Earl of Gowry and his brother, and for his ſervices obtained a conſiderable ſhare of the eſtates of that unfortunate family. He died at London, 12th June 1639, in the 73d year of his age.

¶ An extract from this letter has been publiſhed by Lord Hailes, who fixes the date to be 1603, from the notice of the manuſcript of the Duke of Savoy's attempt on Geneva. Peace was concluded in July 1603 between the Duke and the Geneveſe.

## XXIV.—LORD FYVIE TO KING JAMES VI.

MAIST HEIGH, MAIST EXCELLENT, AND MIGHTIE PRENCE,  
MY ONLYE SOVERAINE AND GRACIOUS LORD,

The lang pruiſſ and experience I haue had off your gracious maiesties thochts and cair, eiuer greatar for the weill and tranquillitie of your peipill and subiects, nor for your awin ease, has maed me to abstain frome wryting to your maiestie this lang quhyle, assuring me self that this happie accresse off your maiesties dominions has increffit also greatumlie the occupations off your maist nobill minde, and that your hienefs be frequencie off lettirs frome all pairts has bein sa occupiet, that butt offence your maiestie could nocht be impaschit or distraçtit frome sa greate affairs, till now, at last, I haue resolued to be my bound dewtie, to gif your maiestie suim coumpt off that precious jowell it pleasit your hienefs to crediet to my keiping, your maiesties uobill issue and sone Duc Charles, quha is (praisit be God) for the present at bettir health far then he was, and, to mak your maiestie mair particular accoumpt, eats, drinks, and usis all naturall functions as we wald wifs in onye child off his graces age, except that his night's rest is nocht as zit sa found as we hoipe in God it fall be shortlie. The greate weaknesse off his bodie, after so lang and heue feiknes, is meikill suppliet be the might and strenth off his sprit and minde: I will assure your maiestie he luiks als statlie, and bearis als greate ane maiestie in his countenance, as could be requirit of onye prence, albeit four tymis aboue his age. I hoipe in God your maiestie fall haue pleafour and confort off his grace. This I can assure your majestie, be the grace of God, thair fall nathing be omittit may appartain to dew seruice or guid attendance on his grace, quhilk may lye in my fobir powar or habelitie quhatfomeuer. As to the affairs off this your majesties realme, fence your hienefs departour frome us (thanks to God), all is in reasonabill guid quietnes, nor we haue hard off na breake as zit



off ony consequence, except in the far Hielands fuim treubill amangs thame fells betuix Donald Gorme and MacClaude Hereis, quhilk trublis na thing the Lawland. Your maiestie will onderstand be your counfalls lettirs the estait and proceedingis with Macgregors. Gif all the greate Hieland clannis war at the like point, I wald think it ane greate ease and weill to this commoun weill, and to your maiesties guid subiects heir. Sik noumber of your maiesties counfall as is heir (quhilk your maiestie may confider to be bot weake in respect off these that ar with your hienefs), has alwayis hithertill waitit on werie weill and diligentlie on the counfall, and all affairs baith concerning the publik gouernement, and particulars belanging to all preparations for the queeins maiesties jorney. I fall, God willing, for my awin pairt, keip that bound dewtie quhilk I haue aduowit and promist to your maiestie, and quhilk the innumerable fauours and benefitts I haue refaut off your hienefs onlye beneuolence and maist gracious fauour towards me, requiris off me, and binds me to. Sa, maist humblie taking my leiuie, and praying the king eternal off all kingdomes, as he has augmented your maiesties dominions to sa greate confort and contentment of all your hienefs subiects, sa to mantein your maiestie in lang and prosperous reigne and gouernement aboue us. With the maist humble kisse off your gracious maiesties hand, I reſte

Your Maiesties maist humbill and loyall ſeruitour,

FYVIE.\*

Edinburgh, 29th April 1603.

To the Kings Maiestie.

\* Alexander Seton, third son of George, sixth Lord Seton, and brother of Robert, first Earl of Winton, was originally destined for the church, and went to Rome to perfect his ecclesiastical studies. The Reformation induced him to change his intentions, and to betake himself to the study of the law. Finding favour in the eyes of James, his promotion was rapid. He was made President of the College of Justice, 28th May 1593; a Peer of Parliament, by the title of Lord Fyvie,

## XXV.—THE EARL OF MONTROSE TO KING JAMES VI.

SIR,

Hir maiesties present estate and condition I refer to the beiraris report. Of hir graices departour to Striveling,\* I wes nawayes ane mover thair of, nather ikairfe acquaynte thairwith; as this beirar cumming in haile can sufficiently impaire to your maiestie hir graices present estate and

4th March 1597-8. He was appointed Lord Chancellor in 1604, and created Earl of Dunfermline, 4th March 1605. Spottiswoode observes that he exercised his place with great moderation, and to the contentment of all honest men. "He professed himself," says Scotstarvet, "a Protestant in outward show, but died an avowed Papist."—*Staggering State*. Edin. 1754, 12mo. p. 17. He left a large estate, which was made away with by his only son, a very dissipated person, who was so much addicted to gambling, that, if we may credit Scotstarvet, "when he was debarred by promise to play at no game, he devised a new way to elude his oath, by wagering with any who was in his company, who should draw the longest straw out of a stack with the most grains of corn thereon."

The Lord Chancellor died at his seat of Pinkie, on the 16th of June 1622, and was buried at Dalgetty in Fife, with great funeral solemnity, on the 19th of July following. Various interesting particulars relative to his death, and the estimation he was generally held in, occur in the *Melros Papers*, vol. ii. pp. 460, 477, 478. A poem of some merit, written by John Lyoun, on his demise, published at Edinburgh, 1622, was some years ago reprinted, as a contribution to the Bannatyne Club, by one of the original members.

\* Her majesty's visit to Stirling, and subsequent illness, arose out of the following circumstances:—

John, Earl of Mar, Lord High Treasurer of Scotland, was much esteemed by James VI. who appointed him governor of Prince Henry. He gave him "a warrant, all with his own hand, ordering him not to deliver up his son to any person, yea, not though he subscribed a warrant to that effect, only in case he ordered him by word of mouth to do so, and in such company as he knew he liked; and it bears, in case of his maiesties death, a command not to deliver him up neither for Queen nor Estates of Parliament, till the Prince came to be eighteen years of age, when he might command himself; which argued ane exuberant trust."—*Erskyn's MS. Memoirs of the Family of Mar*. Upon the accession of James to the crown of England, he left the Queen to follow him within about forty days afterwards; but the Prince was to remain at Stirling. Her majesty, however, who was probably jealous of the influence the Earl might acquire over the mind of her son, proceeded to Stirling, where his Lordship resided, and unsuccessfully attempted to carry off the Prince. Her failure threw her ill, and occasioned a miscarriage.

The King, alarmed for his wife, authorised the delivery of the Prince; but her majesty insisted that Lord Mar should make public reparation for his alleged misconduct. This being refused, she became very much enraged, and was with difficulty reconciled to his Lordship, who, by act of council, was declared to have done nothing that might affect her honour.—See *Birch's Life of Prince Henry*. 1760, 8vo. p. 30, 31. A letter from the Privy Council, on the subject, will be found in the *Melros Papers*, vol. i. p. 3. The King's letter, sanctioning Lord Mar's conduct, is, with relative papers, in the Appendix to Hailes' "Memorials" of the Reign of James.

cumpanye, sua it wer loſt labour to me to wryte any thing, quherof I haif na forder warrand, bot of this beirar him ſelf. Your maieſtie ſhall be fullye acquainted at all orcaſiouns how materis fall fall out heir ; bot if hir hienes jorney wer aues vndertakin, your grace ſuld ſie ane amendment in bygane overſichts, that might be imputed to ws in the government, and ane honeſt and diſpoſit reſolutionun in my ſelf, at leiſt to poſtpone all the feir of hazaird, danger, or inconveniens to that quhilk may redound in any wayes to your maieſties honour, or ſerve for the weill of the puire ſubiectis within this your hienes realme. And ſa at the preſent humblie kiſſing your grace handis, I tak my leave, praying the Almighty God to preſerve your maieſtie in ane gude, happye, and proſperous eſtaite, be

Your Maieſties maiſt humbe and obedient  
ſubiect and ſeruitour,

MONTROISS.\*

Halyrudhouſe, 10th May [1603?]

XXVI.—THE EARL OF MONTROSE TO KING JAMES VI.

SIR,

Thir vnuikid for miſhappes falling furth heir in this cuntrey, thortureing that contentment quhilk your maieſtie reſaues in theſe paintis, na doubt ar the bettir acceptit, and the mair patientlye borne with be your hienes, that in this lyfe thair can be na full and compleitt hap-pines. I will nawayes renew the remembrance of that laite accident,

\* John, thirde Earl of Montrose. He died 9th November 1608. At the period this letter was written, he was Lord Chancellor of Scotland. Scotstarvet ſays, in his "time that line was written in the ſederunt-houſe,

Et Bibulo memini conſule nil fieri;

for he was altogether void of learning, which King James finding, and perceiving his error, got a fair means to ſhuffle him out by making him Vice-Roy at a Parliament, 1604, and then putting in Chancellor Seaton in his place. After which he retired home."—*Staggering State*, p. 14. All the letters that follow, excepting thoſe otherwiſe marked, are from the Balfour Collections, in the Library of the Faculty of Advocates.

faſar to be forrowed in the perſoun of the queins graice; albeit, prayſed be God, thair is ane full aſſurance of hir maieſties preferuatioun and full recovery of hir wounded health; bot being bound in dewtye, as ane of your maieſties ſubiectis, and be the greit manifold graices and favors be tymes beſtowed upoun me; and laſt, in reſpect it hes pleaſed your maieſtie to appoynte me in place of bettir, to ſupplie the office of chancellor, I culd nawayes omitt to impaite the very trew eſtaite of materis as they ſtand heir, for the langer that fyre remains vndiscovered, the laiter cumis the remeide to quenche it; and that wounde and fore, quhilk at the beginning wes baith eaſie and facile to vndertak, be neglecting of it, the cwire of it may trye difficill, if not impoſſible. Thair is ane contraverſie and jar enterit betuix ſum of the nobilitie, anent this laite queſtioun of the princes delyverye. Theſe that accompanyed the queins maieſtie, ar accompted be the erle of Mar to haif bein the moveris and intyferis of hir hienes to that enterpryſe. Thay thame ſelfis be aithes proteſtis, that thay had na intention at all, bot hir graices convoie, being requyred be hir miſſiues thairto. Quhilk charge thay culd not guidlye diſobey. In ather of the contradiſtours, thair reſtis greter hatrent and malice, nor as ȝit be actioun hes buddit furth; bot if it be nocht preventit, na doubt it is able to mak ane greitar ſturre in this cuntrey, than any that hes bein thir mony ȝeiris ago. In this earand thair reſtis famony difficulties, that all men depend vpoun your maieſties will, and nane heir will preiſs to meddle with the ſame, for be your maieſties laite warrand, it is ordaineit, that the erle of Mar ſhall haif the princes convoy in the queins cumpanye. The queins maieſtie is not of mynd to depairt, vuleſs the prince go with hir, and will nawayes reſt contented that the erle of Mar ſuld accompany hir. Quherin the counfell heir hes fund that neceſſitie vpoun thir concluſiouns, that ather mon thay paſs the boundis of the laſt warrand, quhilk thay can nocht guidlie do of thair dewtye, or than be authorizinge of it, to offend the quein at this tounest tyme of hir hienes diſeaſe. Only I thocht it nocht amiſs to impaite the ſame to your maieſtie, maiſt humble beſeiching youre hienes to provyde remeids, how the queins graice may reſt ſatiſſied and contentit, the erle of Mar exonerit of that greit charge, and band that lyes on him for keiping

of the said prince, and sum ordour to be takin how this cilest and contraverfie, lieklye to aryife and inerefs amangis these of the nobilitie, may be fetlit and pacifiet. Quheranent, I doubt nocht your maiestie immediatlie will forsie ane means to help the same, according to that wounted pruiſ of your maiesties wiſdome and fairſicht, kyithed heirtofoir in the lyke maters. Quhilk as we aduire and admire, ſua we reſt forye and diſcontent to be fa far removeit and ſeparatit from the preſence of it amangis ws. And ſa humblie taking oure leave, wiſcheing the almighty God to haif ane cairfull regairde over your maiesties perfoun and eſtaite, I reſt, attending quhatevir directiouns it ſall pleis your maiestie to injoyne, be your

Maieſties maiſt humble and obedient  
ſubiect and ſeruitour,

MONTRUIS.

Halyrudhous, 13 May 1603.

To his Maieſtie.

XXVII.—THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL TO KING JAMES VI.

SIR,

According to that commiſſione quhilk was direct anent the taking ordour with the Clangregor, we haif reſauit alreddie aucht pledgis, and the vther four ar expectit for within thrie or four dayis to remane heir in waird, vpon the perrell of thair awin lyfs, to anſuer for the dew performances of all efferis. Your hienes ſalbe affuirit that the qualitie of the pledgis thame ſelfis will procure ane neceſſitie of the forderance of that wark, the proſequuting quherof is nocht to reſaue ony lang delay; ſeing be theis gentlemen quha ar commowneris thair is allenarlye aucht oulkis crait betuix and the iſchew quhairof it is vndertaken, that all that is promeſit ſalbe performit. We mentionat of befoir to your maieſtie anent the

transport of fa many of that clan that are appointed for banishment, that ane schip micht be send hither. We mon maist humblie renew our fwite, feing all theifs quha are to depart, in quhilk nomer the laird him self is ane, ar to be in redines heir, reddy to embark agane witfontyid, being vnable of thame felffis ather to defray thair chargis, furneis thame felffis of victualls, or pay thair fraucht. Siclyk it will pleis your maiestie to knaw that the submissiōe betuix the Lindfayis and Ogilvis was subferyvit be the lord Spynie and master of Ogilvy zesterday in our hail presence, thay being fullie aggreit of befor, and thair ar nane that hes nocht comperit bot the laird of Kerfs Rynd, and his sone, quha for thair absence ar ordanit to be denoucit, and we haif flayit the lord of Spynie of ony taking jorney befor that that mater be fullie endit and put to ane point. In the vther directiōe, anent the erles of Orkney and Caithnes, we cold do na thing in that mater, be resoun of the absence of the ane being now in the north pairtis, and the vther haueing cum toward your hienes, quha, without doubt, wilbe mowit fa meikle the rather to conforme him self to that directiōe, if it be mentionat thair befor his returne. We, for our part, fall tak ordour, that the partie refuser to submitt falbe dischargit to accompanie the queins maiestie. Sa, humblie intreating pardoun for impatheing your hienes, attending vpone your maiesteis ordoure, we humblie tak our leave, committing your graces sacred persone in the tuitioun and speciall protectiōe of the Almichtie God,

Your Maiesties humble and obedient  
subiectis and seruitours,

JO. PRESTOUN.

ELPHINSTOUN.

R. COKBURNE.

MONTROISS.

FYVIE.

Edinburgh, xvijj May [1603?\*

\* There is no date to this letter, but the allusion to the Queen's journey to England seems to place it in the year 1603. Balfour has put it up with the letters after October 1605, thus making its date 1606; but this arrangement is clearly wrong, as Lord Fyvie, one of the council, had been created Earl of Dunfermline, 4th March 1605. The account of the depressed state of the Clan-gregor is very curious. The Highland Clans appear to have been regarded as intolerable pests by Lord Fyvie. See page 46.

## XXVIII.—LORD FYVIE TO KING JAMES VI.

MAIST SACRED SOUERAINE,

Efteeming na lefs by my dewtie to empefche your hienefs daylie with frequent letters, then to omitt that quhilk may be iuftlie required off me, to mak your maieftie acquent at certane tymes with all fpeciall heads, ather concerning your grace's eftait heir, or particularlie committit to my awin chairge, I hoipe, God willing, in that to keep, fa far as I may, ane midde courfe, lipning alwayis maift in the moderation off your hienefs gracious minde. Firft, concerning that it pleafed your fared maieftie recommend unto me be your letteris, to entreate with the queens maieftie your daireft bedfallow, to think and accompt na mifs in all was done be my Lord off Mar, his fone, or bedfallow, in thir accidents fallin furth laitlie at Stirling; in fa far as all that they did, had fufficient warrand frome your hienefs foueraine authoritie and directioun, quhilk be guid rafon, nather thay could in ony point omitt, nor onye other with faif dewtie controlle; albeit, I haue nocht before geiun your maieftie onye coumpt off my part in that, becaufe, that being prefent with the haill counfall at the treatie off thefe maters at Stirling, the 24 off this infant, I thocht be the counfalls lettir, your grace micht be fufficientlie refoluit off our fucces in that; I wald nocht the lefs farder, your hienefs war perfuadit, I omitted na thing micht lye in me, to haue thefe maters mair foundlie compofit; and hir maieftie to think that all that was done, cariet werye guid rafon with it. I paff immediatlie after the refaitt off your hienefs letter to Stirling, quhair firft I dealt particularlie with hir maieftie als erniftlie as I could, and with all the rafons my witt micht furnifs me to that entent; nixt at the meiting off the counfall, I laid doune fik grounds and arguments as I thocht meiteft, to be proponit and infisit on be us all comounlie before hir maieftie to the fame effect; quhilk the counfall thocht fa fufficient, that as thay concludit beft we fould goe all to gither to hir maieftie to propone and rafon the fame, fua thay burdeinit me to be the firft proponer and rafonar thairoff: I entred indeid, and beganne that puirpois to hir maieftie the beft I could, before your hienefs haill counfall, and was bettir followed nor I could beginne. Our anfuir and fucces

your grace has onderstand be your counfals lettir writtin immediatlie after. I doubt nocht bot hir maiestie consideris and onderstands sufficientlie the best and the warst, and all the right and the wrang in that mater; bot the honour off the ending and finall composing thairroff, as off monie greatar difficulties, is referued to your bienefs wisdome, and exceeding greate dexteritie in all sik causis. At meiting with your maiestie, hir bienefs will think, esteeme, and doe in all that, and all belangs thairto, as fall pleas your grace to direct, signifie, or dispose. This I onderstand to be hir maiesties minde and resolution. As to your maiesties aduocat's\* pairt or mine in this, albeit wee haue had that honour and directioun be your maiesties, to be as hir bienefs counfalouris, in the haill courfs off this befinis, I certifie your maiestie, wee haue beim mair subiect to obey comandements and directions, nor weill hard or tane with in our counfals, quhilk wee wald neuer haue geiwin bot to your maiesties contentment in the first place, and to the fulfilling off your bienefs full will; and nixt to all quietnes and tranquillitie, quhilk your maiestie has eiuwer knawin our haill courfes to be maist addicted to, and as I am certane your sacred maiestie will onderstand partitlie at meiting with hir maiestie, quho knawis our pairts. I was at Dunfermiling quhen this sturre fell furth, and came nocht to Stirling till I was send for be hir maiestie, being in extreimitie off seiknes and diseafe, quhilk estait wald nocht admitt all that guid rason might haue furnist to onye off us, to be said to hir maiestie. Your bienefs aduocat chanced to be with hir maiestie present at the werie warst; be the cariage of suim lettirs off your maiesties thair the night before your bienefs has had sufficient pruiif baith off his witt and guid behaiour of before; at sik ane tyme, in sik ane accident, to sik ane person, quhat could he doe or say? His dew respect to your maiestie, and to your obedience, behouit eiuwer to haue the first place in his minde, he was not ignorant off the great cair, and tender loue your maiestie has to hir bienefs royall person: to dispute or conteste quhat rason and wisdome wald urge off hir bienefs proceedings, was bot the way to incense her maiestie farder against all, and to augment hir passion to greater parell, quhilk he was certane wald haue anoyed your

\* Sir Thomas Hamilton, afterwards Earl of Melros, which title he subsequently exchanged for that of Haddington.



maiestie aboue all, and might haue been iustlie imputt to lake of diseretion on his part. All being weyt, the best expedient was to comfort and encourage hir maiestie, to gif hir guid hairt; in summe, phisick and medicine requireth then greatar place, nor economic or politic. Hir maiesties passions could not be sa weill moderat and mitigat, as be seconding, following, and obeying all hir directiōns, quhilk alwayis was subiect and dependit haillie upon your sacred maiesties ansuirs and resolutions as oracles, to gif baith health and full resolution off all doubts and difficulties. This was his estait, this was his part in the perplexitie off this besines, quhilk weill examinat be your hieneſs oncomparabill wisdome, I am certane will neuer engender onye preiudice to his former deferuings, and extreeme guid will to your maiesties seruice. I can nocht wyte my Lord off Mar being so hardlie tane with, finding hir maiestie sa incensit against him, by ony deferuing off his, or onye that apartenit to him, to wyte others rather nor hir royall maiestie off all proceedings. Bot the decrees of your maiesties souerane minde will passe (I am persuadit), and go by all our pretenſis, and platts to the werye points off equetie and rason, and to the iust interpretation off all our actions. I haue forȝiet meself insisting sa meikil in this purpois with your maiestie, quhilk I protest has greened me sa, that to haue all memorie off the same extinguiſt and abolist, I wald be content almost to be buried thairwith meself.

Your sacred maiesties maist nobill sone, Duke Chairles, continewis (praist be God) in guid health, guid courage, and loſtie minde, althocht ȝit weake in bodie, is beginnand to speik suim words, far bettir as ȝit off his minde and tongue, nor off his bodie and ſeite;\* bot I hoipe in God he ſall be all weill and prencelie, wordie off your maiestie, as his grace is ingit be all werye like in lineaments to your royall perſon. Thair is ane laist attempt fallin furth in Carrik, quhairoff I haue writtin at mair length to my L. Secretair, not willing to trubill your hieneſs with tedious discour of ſik onpleaſant purpois.

\* Charles "was exceedingly feeble in his lower parts, his legs growing not erect, but repandous and embowed, whereby he was unapt for exercises of activity. Again, he was none of the gracefuleſt orators, for his words came difficultly from him, which rendred him indisposed to speak much. But, in the flux of time, and when he began to look man in the face, those tender limbs began so to consolidate and knit together, as the most eminently famed for exercises of honour were forced to yield him up the garland."—Reign of King Charles. London, 1655. Folio, p. 1.

Ane thing restis to me, quhilk I man tak the baldnes to recommend unto your maiestie, as I haue oft done off before, that is, your bienefs Session and College off Iustice, the speciall sponk off light, and fondament off your maiesties estait, and now the only ornament off this land. I man requiest your gracious maiestie to be cairfull off the honorabill maintenance and preferuation thairoff, for gif it decay in onye forte, I will assure your bienefs, your royall authoritie and obedience in this realme will participat off all the accidents may onye wayis befall to that faitt off iustice: and becaufe it is now presupponit be monye, your maiestie is to reterne thair, suim off our numbir, in case sa be, and that your grace be to supplie thair places with others, I wald your maiestie remembrit off that guid and nobill aēt, deuist and sett doune off your bienefs awin deuyfs, for preferuation off the integritie off that hous, that na dimissionould be refaut in fauorem, bot pure and simpill, and quhen euer onye placeould vake in onye maner, your maiestieould present at leist three off the best qualified persons to be tryit be the Lords, and the wordiest refaut. As this aēt was maist wyslie, and worthelie deuist be your maiestie, sa doe I wifs it to be constantlie keipit; and as thair is na thing in that hous obscure or onknawin to your maiestie, the greatest eilest amangs us, I doubt nocht bot your maiestie remembris, is lake off knowledge and learning requist to that place, quhilk I pray your maiestie, supplie be the guid qualities off all your maiestie fall present in tymes to cuim. This is ane werye essential point off your maiesties croun and estaitt in this realme. the integritie and worthiness off the subiects off that hous and counfall, quhilk maks me the mair instant, and, parchance, importune to recommend the same sa liberallie to your maiestie. I am past all dew bounds in langsumness off my lettir to your maiestie, sa occupiet in wechtie affairs. My maist humbill and dew seruice remembrit, I will conclude this langsumness with earnest prayer for lang and prosperous reigne to your maiestie aboue us, and to the warldis end, and to your posteritie. Sua restis

Your Royall Maiesties maist humbill and  
obedient subiect and seruitour,

FVYIE.

Edinburgh, 30 Maij 1603.

To the Kings maist excellent Maiestie.

## XXIX.—THE EARL OF MONTROSE TO KING JAMES VI.

SIR,

Quhen, as I entir in consideratioun of this laite broyllie fallin furth heir, quhairby nocht ȝoure maiesties contentment thair is impaireit, and thairwith ȝour hienes sorrow gretumelye procureit, bot also greit mater of greif is gevin to all ȝour liegis, that any sick accident fuld haif interruptit the full essence of our joye, ȝit all humane thingis being subiect to vicissitude, and mischances being often and commonlie with guide and happie successe intermixed, I wald rest fameikle the mair aggreivit heirat, if I had nocht ane full assurance, that ȝour maiesties patience dois allweill in this particuler, as evir it hes done heirtfoir, overewll and obscure any supposeit passiouns; and thairwith being fully persuaideit that ȝour hienes acceptis this visitatioun as Goddis gentle correctioun. And now hir maiestie, praifeit be God, haveing returneit to Edinburgh, the prince and princeis being with hir in companye, intending the morne to tak jorney towardis Berwick, restis as ȝit vnreconceilit with the erle of Mar, quha hes maid his depairture towardis ȝour hienes; quhais wraithe, if it be nocht appeasit, be all licklyehood is able to produce ane necessitie of ane of these consequentis, for if hir hienes will be satisfieit, it is thocht that the conditionn of that nobleman, quha be his service hes sa worthelye demeinitt, fall not answere to his expectatioun: And if hir hienes be refusit of amendis, complayneing of hir conceavit offence, na doubt the vttering of hir discontentments will breid small pleasure to ȝour maiestie. Bot lest hir hienes wraithe continewing, fuld heirefter produce unexpectit thortures, I wald maist humble entreat ȝour maiestie to prevent the same, according to that prudent foirsicht that hes evir heirtfoir kytheit in ȝoure former proceedingis, and suffer not this canker or corruptioun to haif any forder progress. Thair is ane laite mater fallin furthe in Carrick, the particulars quhairof remitting to the secretaris informatioun, quha, at tyme convenient, will acquaynte ȝour maiestie thair-

with; the counsell heir hes proceedit be chairge and proclamatioun of the accuſſimat forme, ȝit if thair be nocht force adjoyned to ȝour directiouns, thair may ſmall obedience be luiked for, at the handis of theſe quha hes bein heirtofor, and as ȝit remaynis outlawis. In this and findrie vther thingis, for feir of impaſching ȝour maieſtie, I haif written at lenth to the ſecretair, quha will impairt the fame as oportunitie fall ſerve. And ſa, humblie taking my leave, I pray the almightie God to accompt ȝour maieſtie the apple of his awin eie.

Ȝoure Maieſties maiſt humble and obedient  
ſubiect and ſeruitour,

MONTROISS.

Edinburgh, 1 Junij 1603.

To his Maieſtie.

XXX.—EARL OF ANGUS TO KING JAMES VI.

20 NOVEMBER 1604.

PLEIS YOUR SACRED MAIESTIE,

Being informed that your maieſtie is offendit with ſik of the nobilitie as mett in the Inche of St Johnneſtoun, at the laſt parliament, to adwyſe by quhat meanes the chairges of ſik as was choſen commiſſioners mycht be defrayit, I moſt humblie craue your maieſtie pardoun to purge my pairt of any miſbehaviour vſit att that tyme, ather agains this happie vnion, or ony vther your maieſties intention: for in credite I perſaut na difference amangis all your maieſties ſubiectis thair conuenit, bot ane erriſt intention in ewery way, vtering their weil affected hairtes to your maieſties ſeruice in the vnion: controuerſie ſtanding onlie concerning the taxation, quhairin the gritteſt number of the nobilitie feiring that the

brunt thairof should breid ane mislyking of the vnion amanges the commouns, quha, at na tyme, without regrait, ar inducit to any taxation, choifit rather to ferwe your maiestie vpoun thair awin chairges than call in dowbt your maiesties diffein, be imposing vpoun the commouns ane grit taxation, without the quhilk the commiffioners could nocht haue beine honourable outred: and if any man do vtherwyfe informe your maiestie, thay do finiftroufly traduce your maiesties best affectionatt fubiectes. Your maiestie hes to vey in this our affectionis vnto your maiesties ferwice, nochte crediting calumnies of vnfriends, the simple treuth being (in confcience) this quhilk I wryt to your maiestie fo far as come to my knowlege. Quharefore, I befeik your maiestie nocht to condeme me, indieta caufa, nor to think any vtherwyfe of me, bot as of ane of your maiesties most loyallie affected fubiectes, quha, by my general allegiance, doth acknowledge myfelf, in particular, manywyfs dett-bound to your maiesties fauorable clemencye in fik fort, that there is, nor can be, nothing more grevous to me than to vnderftand myfelf to be anywayne ecairted fra your maiesties favor, especially it being my gritteft contentment on earth to be thocht of your facred maiestie as I am, and fall alwayes continew,

Your Maiesties most humble and obedient  
fubiect,

ERLL OF ANGUS.\*

Tomthalloun, 20 November 1604.

\* William tenth Earl of Angus. His adherence to Popery induced him to join with the Earls of Huntly and Errol for the purpose of obtaining the assistance of the Spanish King to re-establish the Roman Catholic religion in Scotland. He was seized and committed to the Castle of Edinburgh, 1st January 1593, but made his escape on 15th February to the north, where he joined the other two noblemen. Latterly he made up matters at court, but finding his religious opinions peculiarly obnoxious to the clergy, he left Scotland and retired to France. He died at Paris on the 3d of March 1611, in the 57th year of his age, and was buried in the Church of St Germain de Prez, where there is a magnificent monument to his memory. In the inscription on his tomb he is made to say—"Vixi cum virtute et in spatiis me exercui maximarum laudum:

## XXXI.—THE MARQUIS OF HUNTLY\* TO KING JAMES VI.

PLEIS 3OUR MOST EXCELLENT, MOST MICHITIE, AND  
IMPERIAL MAIESTIE,

To excus my baldnefs in taking this ocaſion to giue 3our moſt excellent maieſtie maift humbill thankis, for the lettres quhilk it hes pleſit 3our michtie maieſtie to wreit in my fauours to the confell heir, and miniſtrie, to keip me from excommunication, quharby I reſt euer mair and mair det-bound in all humilitie and affection to ſerue 3our moſt excellent maieſtie; 3it I find the miniſtrie heir the mair malicious againis me, the mair 3our moſt michtie maieſtie wreittis in my fauours, for they haue preſentlie ſummonit me to Abirdein to the ſecond day of Januar, mening that day to proceed againis me and my wyf, not regairding 3our moſt excellent maieſtis will, and thay ar plainlie both faſting and preiching maliciuſlie againis the union of the kingdomes, quairby 3our moſt michtie maieſtie may judge thair mening, quhill of affection and deuotie I am bound not to confeill the famin from 3our moſt excellent maieſtie, and gif I haid that honour as to kis 3our moſt michtie maieſtis hand, I culd inform mair ample of thair euill and feditious mening: aluays for my auin part, I haue my onlie refuge to beſeik 3our moſt excellent maieſtie to exime me, my wyf and familie, from thaeme altogidder, for ane 3eir,

ut in ſanctiſſima atavorum religione in Deum: Obſequio in Regem: Amore in Patriam: Charitate erga meos: Bonitate in omnes, nemiui cederem. Ne qui primus eram regni Scotorum Comes, et in bellis primæ Dux aciei, uſpian forem in ſecundis. Hinc omnia tam pro voto fauſte, ut in ſacris et civilibus morem majorum retinuerim: et jussus religionis cauſa, patria excedere aut in cuſtodiam pergere, vite quietiori turbinibus auerruncandis delegerim Galliam, earam alteram Scotis patriam: mihi uero cariſſimam, quod in ea, pro ea, meos meminim majores, bellica claros gloria, res geſſiſſe maximas: et pro meritis factisque fortibus ſic iis relatam gratiam, ut Ducatu ornarentur Turonensi." A copy of this inſcription is given in the Scots Magazine for March 1767, p. 118.

\* George ſixth Earl, and firſt Marquis of Huntly.

till your most mightie maiestie sattill the Union, and sum richt reull unto thaeme, or than I wilbe forfit to us my licens, and my self, yf and familie to leue the contrey, quhilk I will do, befor I be offensiue unto your most mightie maiestie in onie point; beseiking your most excellent maiestie to put me to sum solid stand, that I may be quit of thair cummer; for gif your most mightie maiestie friis me not from thair iurisdiction, I man quit the contrey, rather nor be daylie trublit as I am presentlie.

I onderstand alsua, be ane lettre quhilk I haue resauit from my lord of Banirrinou, that your most excellent maiestie was zit sumquhat communit againis me for my proceedings in Perth, the tyme of the Parlement.\* I will protest befor God, that I did nathing thair, that I thocht suld haue beine offensiue unto your most mightie maiestie, aluayis gif your most excellent maiestie thinkis that I haue offendit in onie fort, I will maist humblie amend the same, sua far as my simple pouar may extend; for sen I haue euer esteimit my gretest uordlie felicitie, to depend upon your most mightie maiestis fauour and gud continauns, God forbid that I suld los it be my auin doing, quhilk neuer salbe uillinglie; and gif your most excellent maiestie thinkis that I haue raclestie failit, I will maist humblie and uillinglie mend. Heirfor, I will beseik your most mightie maiestie to us me as ane, quha, in all humilitie, is halelie disposit neuer to be ane contradictour, bot altogidder ane follouar of your most excellent maiestis uill, as I haue euer beine heirtofor, and remits me halelie to your most mightie maiestis auin uisdom and memorie, to iudge me quhat I haue beine. And gif it will pleis your most excellent maiestie to grant me that fauour, as I may haue the honour to kis your most mightie maiestis hand, I will think myself the mair happie, not for onie suit I haue to impech your most excellent maiestie uith, bot onlie to haue it feine, that I haue not losit your most mightie maiestis fauour and good continauns, quhilk I will euer prefer to all uthir benefit: Sua, craiuing humbill pardon for my lang lettre, and expecteing your most excellent maiestis uill and answer, efter the kissing maist humblie of your most mightie maiestis hand, I will tak my leue, praying the eternall God to preferue your most

\* See preceding letter from the Earl of Angus to the King.

excellent, moſt mightie, and imperiall maieſtie, in lang lyfe and maift prosperous reнге.

Your moſt excellent and mightie Maieſtis  
humble ſubie&ct, and moſt affectionat  
ſeruitour to the deith,

HUNTLYE.

Huntlye, this 20 of Nouember.

To his moſt excellent, moſt mightie, and  
imperiall Maieſtie, King of Great Brit-  
taine, France, and Irlande.

[*Indorſed.*]

Erle Huntley. 10 December 1604.

XXXII.—THE EARL OF ANGUS TO KING JAMES VI.

MOIST GRATIOUS AND EXCELLENT MAIESTIE,

Althocht the parting frome my natiue foyll, frome my eſtair,  
hous, and familie, bot moir than all of thame, the want of your maieſteis  
gratious preſence, be unto me ane juſt cauſe of exceiding greiff and for-  
row, yet the teſtimonie of ane guid conſcience in all dewtie towards your  
maieſtie, and my innocencie of ony capitall cryme, ar confortis to me, that  
this your maieſteis commandiment is nocht ſo muche of ony juſt conceiuit  
malice at my perſone, as of intendit chaſteifment for my conuerſioun to  
the religioun preſentlie eſtableiſit, quhair of your maieſtie may be eaſlie  
perſuadit, I wald moſt glaidlie condifcend unto for ſindrie reſpectis lang  
to wryte, gif I culd haue thairto ony warrant of conſcience. Bot this  
being improper to this preſent ſubie&ct I omit the ſame, and haue reſoluit  
nocht onlie in this poynt, bot in quhatſumeuer ells your maieſtie will com-



mand with the hazard of lylle (my conscience being exceptit) to undergo all perell may geue your maiestie contentment and iust tryal of my obedience. And quhairas I vnderstand of your maiesties plefour for staying of my secund sone,\* now in Spaine, with me, the boy being subiect to ane uniuersall gute, and I being counsellit be phisitians to send him to the baictis in Loren, I will humlie entreate your maiesties gracious fauor that he may go with me for recouerie of his health, and I will heirby promise, upone the leist significationn of your maiesties guid plefor, to retorne him bak to be disposit upoune as your maiestie thinks moit fite. Sir, howfoever my religioun be the caus of my exyle frome your maiesties presence, ȝit so far haue I bene heirtofor, and ever wilbe, frome geving any pairt of your maiesties foueraintie to the pope, as I hald my self iustlie bound in conscience to mantene the authoritie thair of agains quhatsum-euer commandmentis he can or may give out in the contrair; and in testimonie heirof, I haue gevin my aith of allegiance, quhilk I vnderstand to be fairsilie allowit of sum of the preceiser fort and vrgeris of this hard cours agains me, and it will try that, gif thai war burdenit thair of, that thai wald ather maik ane direct denyell, or than maik sic contruēctions thair of as will nocht stand with your maiesties lyking. So, rewising I haue atteint the fauour that this letter may twich that princelie hand I wes so defyr-ous to kifs, I moit humlie taik my leill, praying God to give your maiestie lang and prosperous reigne, intending to leiff and die

Your Maisties moit humill and faithfull  
subiect,

ERLL OF ANGUS.

To his facride and moit gracious Maiestie.†

\* According to Wood's edition of Douglas's Peerage, this second son was James afterwards Lord Mordington. The same writer calls the Earl's second daughter Margaret; but in the monumental inscription, alluded to in the note, p. 60, she is called Elizabeth.

† There is no date to this letter. From the want of internal evidence to fix the period when it was written, it was not deemed expedient to alter Sir James Balfour's arrangement, farther than to place it at the end of the letters for 1604.

## XXXIII.—THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL TO KING JAMES VI.

PLEASE IT YOUR SACRED MAIESTIE,

At a meitting of the counfall ypoun the last of Januar, we had befor ws the Marques of Huntley, and the ministers of the presbiterie of Aberdene, anent the proces of excommunicatioun, intendit be thame againis him, quhairin, efter a litle contestatioun, thay ar be mutuall consent drawin to some conformitie for the presentt: Zit becaus at this presentt dyett, that mattir could not ressaue a finall determinatioun, we haue continewit the same to the first of May nixttocome, to the effect, that in this meanetyme, your maiestie may be acquentit, alsueill be the marques himself as be the said presbiterie, of euery particular circumstance in that turne. And seing the said marques is myndet sehortlie to repair to your maiestie, quha, we doubt not, will mak a relatioun to your maiestie of all that hes procedit in this mater, we will lykways in all reuerence, submissioun, and humilitie, requeist your sacred maiestie to grant accefs and audience to sic of the said presbiterie, as salbe sufficiencly instructed and authorifed from thair brethrene, quhairthrow, eftir hering of baith pairteis, your maiestie may be the better resolued thairin, and accordingly gif your directioun to ws, quhilk salbe prosequented and followed oute. And sua, in all reuerence, submissioun, and humilitie, kissing your sacred handis, we pray God to grant vnto your sacred maiestie a long, happy, and prosperous regne. Frome your maiesteis burgh of Edinburgh, the first of Februar 1605.

Your Maiesteis maist humble and obedient  
subiects and seruitours,

NEUBOTTLE.  
HALYRUIDHOUS.  
TRAKQUAIR.

QUHITTINGHAME.  
R. COKBURNE.  
JO. PRESTOUN.

To the Kingis most excellent Maiestie.

## XXXIV.—LORD BALMERINO TO KING JAMES VI.

PLEAS YOUR MOST SACRED MAIESTIE,

The estats of this your maiesties realme, assembled the 6 of Junij, with great frequencie of nobilmen, prelats, commissiounars of finall barrones and burrowis, in sik nombre as the danger of the plague, quhilk was in all the cuntrey about, was no impediment, but th' assëmblie was more frequent, nor your maiestie has seen many parliaments, of quhome althocht many had thair awin particuler discontenements, zit thair reuerence to your maiesties auctoritie was sik, as no apperance of any disturbance was utterit in all thair metingis. Your maiesties lettre was first red, conteinng both the commandement of the meting, and directioun of the materis to be entreated, wherewith all men was so weill pleased, as after thay had caused reid the same over and over agane, the maist of tham behoved to haif doubillis of it for thair bettir satisfactioun, remembering with no litill ernistnes thair most humble thankis to your sacred maiestie, and most hartly wilhes for your maiesties long and prosperous raigene.

Relatioun was thairefir very gravelie and eloquently made by the chancellor of all the commissiounars proceedingis during the treatie, and satisfactioun gevin to every man quho had any scrupule. Sum litel instance was made by sum of the most curious for publicatioun, and copeis of the principall, quhilk was refused. In all the report, the chancellor omitted not your maiesties most loving and princelie cair of this your poore cuntrey, quhilk gave no litil confort to all the assitants, in sik fort as many quho came thair exasperated upon calumneis and misreports befor, departed in end weill satisfied.

Divers thinges war motioned concerning the estate of the cuntrey, but generallie this ground was held by the maist part, that a conventioun might not medle with any thing that appearit to derogat, till ane act of parliament, or wherof, the establisshing requyred the autoritie of a parliament: sua all materis of moment was remitted to the next sessioun of the parliament, to begin the 26 of November approaching.

The names of sik as war present, with the materis that war agreit unto, ar heirwith sent to be considerit of by your maiestie.

Thefe of the counfall, biffhoppis, and commiffionaris, as your maieftie hes committed the biffhoppis erands unto, ar to meitt the morne to refolve anent the nixt conventioun, and the names of thame that falbe wretin for.

Tuyfday the ii. of this infant is appoynted for voyding this proces betuix the Marquis of Huntly and Mr Johne Forbes, and ending the agreance betuix the Lord Maxwell and Johnftoun.

If it pleas God in his mercy, that we may be frie of the plague, we hoop that nather in the adminiftration, nor executioun of juftice, nor in the hole cours of the policie of the cuntrey, your maieftie fall heir any thing, but that wherwith your maieftie falbe weill pleafed; and if it fall pleas your maieftie to performe that royall promeis, quhilk your maiefteis loving fubieets heir of all rankis cruielly wifhes, and affuredlie lookis for, to honour and felicitate this your native kingdome with your princelie prefens, that your maieftie fall find the Bordouris, Hilands and Yles, in fik a frame of peax and policie, the reft of the cuntrey in that wealth and ftedfaft obedience, that in mannis opinioun evir could have beene expected. Thefe ar the fruits of your maiefteis heroique labouris, quhill your maieftie was amangis us, daily encreffing by your maiefteis grave and wyis commandements; wherin our greiteft reioyng is, that we hoop affuredlie your maieftie will not diflane to fie with your facred eyis this new face of your ancienne kingdome, ftryving in vertuous emulatioun with any natioun quhatfoevir.

Thus humble craving your maiefteis pardon for my prefumptioun, I end with my continuell prayeris for your facred maiefteis eternell felicitie. From your maiefteis Pallice of Halyruidhous, in fum mefour renewit as the reft of the cuntrey, this 9 of Junij 1605.

Your Maiefteis moft humble and  
obedient fervant,

J. BALMERINOCIL.\*

\* Sir James Elphinstone, third son of Robert Lord Elphinstone, was created by James Lord Balmerinoc. He was particularly favoured by his majesty, from whom, according to Scotstarvet, "he craved the reversion of Secretary Cecil's place, at the King's coming to the crown of Eng-

## XXXV.—LORD FYVIE TO KING JAMES VI.

MAIST GRACIOUS AND SACRED SOUERAINE,

Being arrivit heir within this twa dayis, I could nocht bot think it requisit, and alwayis my dewtie, to gif your sacred maiestie fuim account off the estait off this your ancient kingdome, and sit becaufe I onderstand and knowis the same, is maist parfyttie and exacttie writtin unto your hienefs be my Lord Balmerinoch your secretaire, like as I haue also writtin all the speciall particulars to my Lord Barwike,\* to be declarit unto your sacred maiestie: Fearing I fould trubill your hienefs with doubill repetitioun off fashious and tedious purpoifs, I will tak the bauldnefs for the maist pairt, to raport me to my Lord off Balmerinochis lettirs, and to my Lord of Barwikis informatioun to your gracious hienefs, off ilk as I haue writtin to him. I haue found the counfall and fesslioun sittand in this toun, and the estait off the toun (thanks to God) rasonabill, guid, and free off siknefs or contagion, albeit nocht without fuim remainis off suspicioun, and fuim leitill new infections spreiding about, quhilk be Godis grace and magistratis diligence I hoipe fall be helpit. The morne is the day apointit for creatioun off the earlis be your maiesties

land, which was the beginning of his overthrow; for the said Secretary Cecil wrought so, that having procured a letter which had come from King James, wherein he promised all kindness to the Roman See and Pope if his holiness would assist him to attain to the crown of England.—This letter the said Secretary Cecil showed in the King's presence, in the Council of England; whereupon King James, fearing to displease the English nation, behoved to disclaim the penning of this letter, and lay the blame thereof on his Secretary, whom, a little before that, he had made Lord Balmerino." p. 59. His Lordship confessed that he had transmitted the letter without his majesty's knowledge. He was sent to Scotland, brought to trial, and condemned to lose his head. The sentence was, however, not carried into execution; for, as the scandalous chronicler before quoted informs us, "he got liberty to go to his own house of Balmerino, where, being a widower, he got an amatorious potion of cantharides from a maid in his house called Young (thereafter wife to Dr Honeyman), of which he died," in anno 1612.—*Staggering State*, p. 61.

\* George Home (subsequent Earl of Dunbar), created by James VI. Lord Home of Berwick, 7th July 1604.

ordonance, thair is rafonabill noumbir off nobill men conueinit to the fame effect. We ar to aduyfe with thame that ar heir, quhat tyme fall be meitest to be apointed for the conuentioun. My Lord Maxuell is also to be this oulk before the counfall with his freindis, for to onderlye the lordis ordonance, and your sacred hienes commandement in this langage feade betuix him and the Jhonstons. The greatest pleyars now in the Towbuith off this toun ar Jhonstons and Maxuellis, ane werye great and guid noueltie. The kirk materis gois rafonablie weill, according to the directions off your sacred maiesties wifdom, as I haue wrettin mair at lenth to my Lord Barwike. The Laird off Lawreston attendis diligencie, and obeyis resolutlie your hienes commandements in these maters. Thus maist humbly taking my leive for the present, praying the eternall God lang to keip and preferue to us your sacred maiestie, and your other half, with all your royall progenie, I rest

Your sacred Maiesties maist humbill and  
affectionat subiect and seruitour,

FYVIE.

Edinbrough, 3 Marche 1605.

To the King his maist excellent Maiestie.

XXXVI.—THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE TO KING JAMES VI.

MAIST SACRED SOUERAYNE,

I haue noe farder occasioun to vryte vnto your maiestie at this tyme, bot to acquaint your hienes with ane lytill accident fell furthe of laite befor the Secreit Counfall, the lyke whereoff hes nocht bene oft feyne in that faite of judgement.

Ane called Alexander Cheyne was perfewed be a poore man dwelling vnder my Lord Glames in Angoufs, that he had cum violentlie in the night vppon him in his hous, brocken ane battoun vppon him and his wyfe in thair bedd, and belted the poore man him selff with ane sword belt, efter he had pulled him out of his bedd: The pairteis compered,—the defendar denyed maist constantlie the deid; the witnesfes was nayne other bot twa of the faidis defendars awin ferwands, and some of my Lord Glames men, who could nocht be refaued witnesfis, nocht onely becaus thai war all as pairteis thame selffis (in respect thai war all night-bours of the toun, and assisted the poore man to the perquite), bot also in respect of fead and blood standand betuix the said Alexander Cheyne and the Lord Glames, albeit the Lord Glames assisted nawayes the perfwete, nor came nocht to this toun, nor nayne for his lordship. This made the offendar foe bauld, that he feared nocht to faice the counfall, thinking the mater could nocht be provin againes him, being noe witnesfis, bot his awin ferwands, whoe war actours with him in the wrong. Alwayes the counfall examined his two ferwandis severallie; and albeit at the begynning thay manfweir the deid; nochttheles, be divers interrogatories, admonitiounes, terrors, and warieteis in thair depositions, at last the weritie was exprest out of thame. Whilk being gottin, and the hail maner of the fact discovered to the lordis, we called in the said Alexander Cheyne, principall doar, and efter he was sworne wppon his knees (lykas we made him to sitt on his knees the hail tyme of his deposition, to remember him the bettir of his dewtie), being admonished of the greivounes off perjurie, whilk was far abowe the offence he was challenged wpon, nochtwithstanding he aboad stiff and stubborne at his denyall, and condampned himselfe to all mozte rigorus deathe and executioun, giff anye sic thing war; lipining certainlye in his suborned fervands and pertakers, and in the platts layd amonges thame, concerning the denyall,

O cœca nocentium  
Confilia.

Till at last, be confronting of him personallie with the faidis witnesfis, his ferwands, and pertakers, he was constrainyd to acknowledge and grant

the haill weritie, with great repentance (albeit too laite); and declaired the haill circumstances of the deid, subornation of the witneffis, and plat layde amongs thame, what ewirie ane of thame fould faye. The counfall committed thame all instantlie in the iustice hands, and ordanyed thame to be put the morne effir to ane tryall upon thair depositions; and being conuict, the said Alexander Cheyne, principall actor, for his perjurie and subornation of the witneffis, in foe fowll ane fact and oppression, to be beaded. The ane of his witneffes and ferwands, whose wilfullie and stubbornelie aboade be his falschoode, till he was constrayned be the discowerie of his marrow to grant the weritie, to be handged, and the other wha first granted the weritie, and gaife greit light to the tryall of the haill actioun, to be seurdged allanerlye, and his lyfe faiffe. I hope your maiestie shall werye weele allow of our proceedings in this, for foe does all good men, and thinkes that this shall be ane great terroure to all malefactoures. I assure your maiestie, the counfall tuke great paynes in tryall of this mater, and your bienes aduocat was als strait and quicke as onye man could be. Of all riotts or wrongs that hes cum befor the counfell since my haymecumming, thair hes bene summar and present cognitioun tayne, and instant pwnishment be warding and fines. Thair is ane laite accident fallin furthe betuix the Maxuells and Jhonstouns, about the hous of Newbie, and ane Jhonstoun slayne, or at least deadlye hurt. With all diligence we haif directed thair ane companie of the gaird, with ane herauld, to tak the hous, to chardge baithe the parteis befor the counfall, and to preuene anye farder inconvenient. Swa, maist humblie taking my leife, praying the eternall God to continew your bienes in all healtbe and happines, long to raigne over ws, I rest

Your sacred Majesteis most humbill and  
loyall subiect and fervitor,

AL. DUNFERMELING.

Edinburcht, 23 Martij 1605.

To the Kingis most excellent Majestie.



## XXXVII.—EARL OF DUNFERMLINE TO KING JAMES VI.

MAIST SACRED SOUERAYNE,

I reſſaued your gracious maieſteis letters from the Marqueis of Huntlie the 4 day of this inſtant monethe, the whilk daye the ſaid marqueis arrywed firſt to this town, preſented himſelfe to your maieſties counſall, offered and promeſed thair all dew obedience, as ewer he ſhould be chardged or fend for. All the wyfeſt of this land, be great trawell and lang adwyſement, could nocht haif dewyſed anye thing ſwa proffit-able for the eſtabliſhement of your honor, obedience, peace, and good government off this countrie, as your hienes graive, wyfe, and circumſpect behaviour and vſage towardes the ſaid Lord Marqueis, at his laſt voyadge thair hes done; your maieſteis wiſdome, alwayes great, in this hes bene admirable, with the gentle correſtioun of ane, your hienes hes teached to all the reſt thair dewtie, and that ſoe ſenſible, as I believe, for this lang whylle, thair ſhall nayne fall in ſic ourſight, and he and all the reſt ſhall beir the greater reverence and reſpect vnto your maieſteis authoritie, and to ſic as your hienes committes the adminiſtratioun off your affaires in this kingdome. I hawe alſo ſenſyne reſſaued ane other letter of your maieſteis from Mr Jhone Forbes, miniſter, according to the direſtioun whereoff, thair ſhall be lettirs ſchortlye direſted from the counſall, for my Lord the Marqueis of Huntlye, and ſome commiſſioners of the miniſterie of that countrie, to trye the veritie of thais ſpeitches. At thair comperance, your ſacred maieſtie maiſt raſonabill and wyfe comandements, contened in the ſaid letter, ſhall be followed in all, and your hienes immediatlie efter adwertefed of the ſueceſs of that proceſs. The counſall hes nocht thoecht meitt to call the Marqueis of Huntlye befor the tyme of the conuentioun, whilk will be in the begynning of June nixt, becauſe it wald haif bene verye troubleſome to him, within ſwa ſchort ſpace, to mak twyfe that voyadge, being bot laidle returned from your maieſtie. The haill eſtaite of your maieſties affaires in this cuntrie goes

(thanks to God) werye weell, and all is in great quyetnes and obedience. Your sacred maiestie may be assured, giff thair war onye smallest aperance off anye stur, malcontentment, or anye maner of noveltie, we wald nocht spair to caus the poastes ryde thithar, and I wald offer take the bauldnes to truble your maiestie with my letters, whilk I am otherwyfe laithe to doe, without some relewant and good occasioun. Onye other particulars requisite to be remembered vnto your gracious hienes in your affaires heir, I wryte mair particularlye to my Lord of Barwicke, to be communicate vnto your hienes, as your lasur may best serwe: for we haiff thir twa dayes kept counfall in this toun, where befyde all other particulars, we haiff putt my Lord Maxwell to some point in his seade, and hes tayne some resolutions with my Lord Ergylle, concerning the persute of the M<sup>c</sup>Gregoures, whilkes haill proceidingis I haif written mair particularlye to my Lord of Barwick, to be impaired to your sacred maiestie. The dewyfe, whilk proceedit from your maiesteis onye wisdome of the mutuall commissiouns and commissioners vpon the Borders proceeds (thanks to God) werye weell, and takis ane werye good successe, to the great quyetnes and contentment of the haill countrie. I pray your maiestie excuse me, that I dare be swa bauld, as to recommend vnto your gracious hienes good favour and countenance, your awin creature the Erle of Home; as I did personallie, when I had last honour to kifs your hienes hand; for I heir, that he and all his kyithes als great obedience and willingnes in seruice as ony in that countrie. Swa, praying the eternall God long to continew your hienes in all prosperitie, and daylie to augment your grandeur, I rest

Your sacred Maiesties maist humbill and  
obedient subiect and seruitor,

AL. DUNFERMELING.

Edinburcht, 20 Aprilis 1605.

To the King his moste excellent Maiestie.

## XXXVIII.—THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE TO KING JAMES VI.

JUNE 22, 1605.

MOST SACRED SOUERAYNE,

As it is the cheif and principall point off his dewtie, wha hes the honour to beare charge in the Cowmounwealthe, to be ewer vigilant and cairfull in paines taking for dew administratioun thairoff, fo the profitable actiounes of ane magistrat did ewer mereit and rapport ane heichar commendatioun, than ather good speitches, or tymous wrytts, howbeit, that baithe the ane and the other ar na lefs profitable than neecessar, and caryes with thame eche one thair awin prayfe. The consideratioun wheroff (most sacred fouerayne), as it hes ewer mowed me to preifs and indevoir myselfe, rather to do than to say weelle, and to be mair ernst in doing than busie in writting; fa now, lykwayes, it furneishes me baldnes and reason to excuse myselfe at your maiesties handis, gif, perhaps I hawe ather seymit, or heirefter may appeir to your maiestie, to be to slaw in vritting, or sending adverteifmentis off all particulars; albeit in this fame, I hope nawayes to be fa fleuthfull as to neglect that dewtie, whilk tyme and occasioun may require. As now at this present, nochtwithstanding I have thocht it neidfull to adverteis and acquent your sacred maiestie with this lait uproir and tumult, whilk hes fallin out betuix the Lairdes of Edzell and Pittarro;\* newirtheles, the mair ample and particulier recit off all particulier circumstances thairoff, I will remitt to my Lord Secretaries declaration, wha hes, I am certaine, vrittin the fame, at great lenthe, to your sacred maiestie. Swa I hawe this only to schaw your maiestie, that, in generall, the estaite of this land is futehe (prayed be God), to your maiesties great gloir and immortal fame, and to the assured weill and joy off your maiesties subiects, that almaist we may rather wishe and desyre the conservatioun and standing thairrof, than any heichar perfection, or farder increafs of the famyne. Seing that, in plaice of the heiche contempt of your maiesties lawes, of the proud

\* In the High Street of Edinburgh. The fight lasted from nine at night till almost two in the morning. Several of the combatants were hurt, but only one man killed.

rebellioun, and maisterfull oppressioun, whilk was wount to regne in thir partes, thair is nathing now (at leift generalie) bot a fatled and quyet forme of doing, eche one peciable in his awin estait, awaiting for justice, and redie to obey your maiesteis lawes, and all praying and admiring, in thair awin felicitie, your maiesteis good and happie government; for the continewance and furdurance whereoff, I fall labour, God willing, for my pairt, to doe all that ather the honour of my chairage requyres, or my dewtie bindes me, or my awin maist bent and willing affectioun to your maiesteis service preiffes me to, or in end, whatsumever your sacred maiesteis preconced favorable opinion, may expect of me. Sua, praying the eternall God lang to manteyne and preferue your sacred maiestie in all prosperitie, maist humblie taking my leiwe, I rest

Your sacred Maiesties maist humbill and  
obedient subiect and seruitor.

AL. DUNFERMELING.

Edinburcht, 22 Junij 1605.

To the King his excellent Maiestie.

XXXIX.—THE EARL OF MONTROSE TO KING JAMES VI.

NOVEMBER 29, 1605.

MY MOST GRATIOUS, SUEIT, SACRED SOUERANGNE,

However I am sumquhat to laite in congratulating of your maiesteis laite happie delyuerie,\* 5it I hoip the place of my abode being remote fra the ordinarye arryuell of aduerteisments, and the inhabilitie of my bodie being the onlie stay of my nocht prefence at that last confell day, will procure your maiesteis most gratiuous pardoun for my absence at that tyme, haueing since the first report of this mater euer wisched myfelfe (if so, as prafed be God of the contrare, that deuilische intencion had takin effect), to haue bein thair also, to haue maid ane periode

\* From the conspiracy commonly called the Gun Powder Plot.

of my dayis, thair being nothing that culd haue bene expectit be my furueing, bot worfe than a thoufand deathis. And thairfoir, vpon confideration of this hynous intendit treafon (quherof the interpryfers, no doubt, ar verie deuillis incarnate by conception), far furpaffing not onlie all former actis or intentiones ever fince the creatioun, and fklairfe cunning within the compas to be credited or beleived, that fuche a thing fo voyde of all humanetic culd haue takin place, in any perfon poffeffit with reafoun, and feing thir aduaneers (not of any relligioun, as they furnyfe, bot of the deuillis awin kingdome) hes cleirly difcouered thair correpondence with Belzebub, the head of thair churche, I am thairfoir moft humblie to entraite your maieftie, to haue a more warye circumfpectioun over fuche lyk pepile, who, vpon pretence of thair zeale to aduance thair relligioun, gois about fuche diabolicall praetifes, that, by your maiefties fuerde of iuflice, they may be difpatched for Goddis eternall iugement, to thair proper hie temple, the bottomles pit of hell, the attaining quherof they haue fo greidalie and haferdoulfie focht. And as it is no finall confort and mater of ioye vntoo all your good fubiectis heir, that your hienes hes the happie benefeite of fo good, wyfe, and weill effectit counfellors thair, quhoife cairfull diligence in the tryell of this actioun hes gevin fo good a prooffe of thair deutefull affectioun, fo euerey one of ws wald humblie befeik your maieftie, by thair adwyfe and counfell, to foirfie al poffibill meanes for preventioun of flik lyk heir-eftir, and to tak flik ordour, that fuche malignant fpreittis, in humane fchape, may not haue the benefeite of braithing within your dominiounes, bot may be fecludit fra all poffibiletie to go about any fuche erand heir-eftir. And with randerung thanks to God for his many former, and this laite mercie extendit towardis your maiefties, with prayer alfo for continuance of his protectioun over your heigneis, I humblie kifs your facred hand, refting

Your Maiefties humble and obedient  
fubieet and feruitour to death,

MONTROISS.

Halyrudhous, the 29 of November 1605.

To his moft facred Maieftie.

## XL.—THE EARL OF ERROL TO KING JAMES VI.

JANUARY 21, 1606.

SIR,

It may pleis your maist excellent maieftie, according to the command of your hienes letters, quhilks come to my hands 3ifterday, I falbe cairfull to prowyd ane terfel to the halk of Fowlisbewch,\* and falbe anfuerable to your maieftie for the fame, in cais the auld terfel be dead : your maiefties Mangrell falcone, quhilk I haif, fowld haif bein at your hienes lang or now, bot that as my falconer was reddie to tak his jorney, thie contractit ane difeais, quhairwith he durst not adwentewr to trawell hir, in respect of the great frosts and stormes. I wilbe anfuerable to your maieftie, that thie has bein nawayes streffit, bot als weill treatit as any halk cowlde be : Nather fall your maieftie suspect that I haif retenit hir for my awn pleffour, quhilk I fall newir compair in the greateft thing quhatfoewer with your maiefties meanest contentment, or am I able as 3it, ewin at this present, to trawell wpoun the feilds for any game. Always how soin it falbe possibill that the halk may in any fort be trawellit, thie falbe at your maieftie with all diligence. She haid the fame feiknes the last 3eir, in this fame seafone, and was not frie of it quhill neir Mairche.

And thus not preswming to be farther fashious to your hienes, bot in

\* Foulshench is a steep rock on the eastern coast of Scotland, about three or four miles to the westward of Stonehaven. It is nearly a quarter of a mile in length, and the height from the sea, which washes the base of it, is upwards of two hundred feet. A writer in the Scots Magazine (July 1808) says, "The rock, and the birds which lodge on it, are considered the property of the proprietor of the neighbouring estate, who lets them for a considerable sum of yearly rent to a tenant, who is called the heughman, and who is obliged annually to give the landlord a young hawk, from a nest of these birds, of an uncommonly large size, which builds in the rock regularly every year." From this extract it would appear that the particular breed of hawks so much esteemed by James VI. exists, or at least recently existed, at Foulshench.

all hwmilitie attending 3owr maiefties farther commandements, in killing  
3owr royall hands I tak leif, and reftis ewer

3owr Maiefties maift luifing and faithfull  
fubiect, and howmill ferwand,

ERROL.

Perth, this 21 Januar 1606.

To the King his maift excellent Maieftie.

XLI.—THE EARL OF MAR TO KING JAMES VI.

JANUARY 21, 1606.

MAY IT PLEIS 3OUR MAIESTIE,

According to 3our direktion anentt the terfall \* of Foullfheuch,  
I fhall obey 3our commandimentt fullie and in all points. I can nott, as  
3itt, certefy 3our maieftie quhither he be alyue or nott, bott vithin few  
days, I think, I fhall go neir to gett the certintie may be had of fo on-  
certan a mater. I haiue fpokkon my Lord Marfchall, quha fays to me,  
he thinks he be alyf, 3itt vpon this I dar not affeure 3our maieftie, bott

\* Tercel or tiercel, "a male hawk, so called because it is a third part less than the female in bigness and strength." Phillips' *Moderne World of Words*. 1696. Folio. Gervase Markham terms hawking "a most princely and serious delight;" and in enumerating the different kinds of hawks, he divides them into long-winged and short-winged. Among the latter he includes the goshawk, and the *tercel* of the goshawk; and subsequently mentions, that the goshawk and tercel were used for flying at the partridge, pheasant, or hare. *Country Contentments*. London, 1615, p. 87. Lord Binning, whose premature death deprived the world of a most worthy and accomplished man, wrote a very humorous and clever ballad, entitled "The Jolly Hawk and the Tearsal," on the temporary loss of a favourite tercel belonging to his father, the Earl of Haddington, which had flown away to the Bass, but was afterwards discovered.

vill fend ain of my auin,\* and shall leive naithing ondown in that or any other thing your maieftie pleis to command me; fua, maift humblie kiffing your sacred hands, I euer reft

Your Maieftis houmbill feruantt,

A. MAR.†

Edinburgh, the xxi of Januar 1606.

To the Kingis most excellent Maieftie.

\* The passion of James for hawking is well known; and that he was somewhat anxious to appropriate the best hawks of his subjects, is evinced by the following letter from him to Sir Alexander Fraser of Philorth, reprinted from the *Literary Register* for March 1823, 4to, a periodical work that has long since ceased to exist, and the numbers of which are somewhat rare:—

“ Right traist friend, we greit you hartlie well. Hearing that ye have ane gyir falcon, quhilk is esteamit the best hawk in all that cuntrie, and meetest for us that haue sa gude lyking of that pastyme, we have, thairfor, taiken occasion effectuouslie to requiest and desyre you, seing hawks are but gifting geir, and na otherwise to be accompted betuix us and you, being sa well acquainted, that of courtesie ye will bestow on us that gois hawk, and send her heir to us with this bearer our servand, quhom we have on this earand directed to bring and carry her tenderlie: Quherin, as he shall report our hartie and speciall thankis, sa sall ye find us redde to requite your courtesie and good will with na lesse pleasure in any the like gates as occasion sall present. Thus, resting perswadit of your presenting us heiranent, we commit you in Goddis protectionn.

“ JAMES R.

“ From Perth, the first of March 1596[7.]

“ To our traist friend, the Laird of Philorth.”

Sir Alexander Fraser was the ancestor of the Lords Salton. He was knighted at the baptism of Prince Henry, and died at Fraserburgh, 12th April 1623. There is a portrait of him in Pinkerton's *Scottish Gallery*.

† Lord Mar “ was called to a by-name John Slaits, the reason whereof some give to hane been called so by the King while young when they were playing at game. The King alledged he had slaited him, which is an old Scottish word, signifeing that he had outwitted him; and the King oftimes, when he writt with his own hand to him, designed him John Slaits, as his compellation in the beginning of his letters.” *Erskyn's MS. Memoirs*. He died 1634, in the 72d year of his age.



XLII.—THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE AND LORD PALMERINO TO  
KING JAMES VI.

APRIL 18, 1606.

MAIST SACRED SOUERANE,

Thair is sick bruittis past throught all this land, off some, indeid horribill, accusatiounes against ws (ffor we think thame naa otherwayes our selffis), as the mater is now past concealling, wee haiff hard greate word that wee war to be challengitt heirwpon be your sacred maiestie, and called to ane accompt anent the veritie off fik imputatiounes as is alledgit on ws. We haiff this lang whylle attendit wpon some signification beiroff from your maist gracious hienes, whose wifdome and iustice, we are assured, will neiwer condemue ws onharde. Albeitt it be wydelie aneucht spoken, that the allegatiounes in our contrair, and calumnies gevin furthe aganist ws, hes maid great impressiounes in your hienes mynde, we will naways beleiwe onye fik thing. This only we haiff thought ws bund to, off dewtie, feing thair is sua mekle talke off this all whair, as we can naa langer miskenne itt; we protest befor God, thay ar als great calumneis and ontreuthis, as ewer was dewysit againes onye men; and faa fals, as the dewyfars and forgears thairoff shall neiwer be hable to sehaw faa mekle as onye apperance or lyklichade off the fame. What is farder requiseit to be done thairanent, we remitt to your maist gracious hienes wifdome and considération. The thing wee regrait maist is, that the worde off sick impressiounes in your hienes mynde, or geving eare to fik onlyklie calumneis, is naa small hinder unto your sacred maiesteis service in thir pairtes, wee haiffing sic chairdge and burding in the fame as we haiff. The halding off this countrie in obedience, will neiwer want eiwill will and inwey off manye off the greatest, and this turne whairon we ar faa calumniat, broght ws mekill ewill will off the counoun forte off the countrie also. sua that, giff it may be

thoght that wee be nocht certane off your maieſteis conſtant favour, bot may be ſua eaſilie detracted and traduced butt farder, it can nocht faill to mak our authoritie and ſtrenthe the leſs in your hienes ſervice, whilk wee regaird maiſt off anye wardlie thing; and what grudge wee beare for doing the ſame preceiſlye according to your ſacred maieſteis directiounis in all pointes, as we haiff done, wee doubt not bot your hienes knawes and onderſtandis ſufficientlye. Sua, maiſt humblye taking our leiwe, and praying the Eternall lang to preferue and augment your royall maieſteis eſtaite and grandeur in all proſperitie, reſtis

Your ſacred Maieſties maiſt humbill and obedient  
ſubjects and ſeruiteurs,

DUNFERMELYNE.  
J. BALMERINO.

Edenburgh, 18 April 1606.

To the King his moſt excellent  
Maieſtie.

XLIII.—THE EARL OF ERROL TO KING JAMES VI.

MARCH 16, 1606.

IT MAY PLEAS YOUR MAIST EXCELLENT MAIESTIE,

That as next wntoe God, the eſtait of my howſs hath ewir bein proteſtit and preferwit be your hienes, againſt the ſubtill practiſſis of my fatheris laſt wyff, and my ſtepmother,\* quhilks many zeires befor this tyme, hath bein cleirlye diſcoverit, and maid weill knawin to your royall

\* Lady Agnes Sinclair, daughter of George fourth Earl of Caithneſs. She had one ſon, George Hay of Killour, from whom the preſent Earl of Errol is deſcended.

maiestie. Sa, gif the fame fall not 3it be wphalden be 3our hienes princelie fawour, against the onquencheable malice of that fame woman, and put in sewrtie be 3owr royall power in this fame enfewing parliament, I can haif na assuriance, bot that both my houfs and my posteritie may perishe in hir falthood. In consideratioun of quhilk great extremitie, I doe maist howmilly craif 3our maiesties pardoune, that I am forcit to be fa bawld, as be thees lynes to befeik 3our hienes to assit me in that quhilk wilbe agreable both to 3our hienes honour, and the sewrtie of that howfs: Quhilk, and my awin lyf also, fall ewir be maist reddelie bestowit for 3our maiesties service, at all occasiounes. And as I am not of purpofs to offend 3our hienes with any tedious discours, fa I doe maist hwmillie desyr, that it may pleas 3owr maiestie, to heir the fame fra Mr Alexander Hay, as lykwayes my hwmill petitionne to 3owr hienes, togidder with the forme of the sewrtie quhilk I desyr to be grantit be 3our maiestie, and accordinglie directit to the parliament. And thus, in all dewtiefull regards, expecteing 3our hienes gracious ansuer, I doe maist hwmillie kifs 3owr princelie hands, and maist earnestlie pray the Almychtie to haif 3owr maist royall personne and princelie childrein, with all 3owr maiesties maist werteous defeynes, in his blessed protectioun.

3owr Maiesties maist lwifing and faithfull  
subiect, and hwmill serwand,

ERROL.

Logealmond, the 16 of Marche 1606.

To the King his maist excellent Maiestie.

XLIV.—THE EARL OF ERROL TO KING JAMES VI.

JULY 13, 1606.

PLEAS 3OUR MOST SACRED MAIESTIE,

Quhereas the privilege of Constabularie in the realme of Scotland, grantit be 3our maiesties most nobill progenitouris, of gude memorie,

L

to my prediceſſouris, be law and daylie practique, hes bene to judge vpon bluide and bluidweit, committit within ſic boundis neir to your maieſties royall chalner, and in tyme of parliament: Notwithſtanding, it hes pleſit your maieſties moſt honorabill and Privie Counfell, to deſigne and delegat judges be commiſſioun, for ordour taking with this lait accident, fallin out betuix the Erle of Glencairne and Maifter of Wentoun at Perth, vpon the different allegiance and claime maid betuix the Chiefe Juſtice and me, anent the libertie of juridiſtioun, and affixing of court to that effect: Quherebe, the immunitie and friedom of my office is not onely imparit, bot lykwayis the moſt ſufficient argument of manifeſting my zeale to your maieſties ſervice, the abundance quhereof, at all tymes, bot chieflie in this parliament, God and honeſt men can beare record vnto your hienes. And theirfore, Sir, I am bold in all humilitie to beg your maieſties moſt gracious favour, be returning ordinance to the counfell, diſchargeing the creation of the judges delegat; or, els that I may have the benefite of replegiatioun from the commiſſioneris as accordis of the law, and the authoritie and aſſiſtance of the counfell interponit, to cleide with the ancient liberties of my office, anent the citatioun of the malefactouris to compeir befor me in my Court of Juſticiarie: in the adminiſtratioun quhereof, I ſhall have ſik due conſideratioun as my tendir care, and trew regarde to the furthſetting of your maieſties honour and princely eſtate, ſhall be cleirly publiſhed vnto the world. And thus craveing your maieſtie moſt humble mercie for my boldnes, with my hart perpetuallie confecrate in love to your maieſties ſacred perſoun and eſtate, I tak my leive, remaneing to death

Your Maieſties moſt loving and faithfull  
ſubieſt and humble ſervant,

ERROL.

Logealmond, 13 of July 1606.

To the King his maiſt excellent Maieſtie.

## XLV.—THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL TO THE EARL OF DUNBAR.

JULY 24, 1606.

OwR dewtie rememberit, we have thocht ve cwild do no les nor acquent your lordship of this twmwlt fallin owt in this townn of Glasgow, betwix the Laird of Minto 5ownger,\* and Sir George Elphinstoun,† prowett, wher-vpone the baill town almaist reifs in armes, and the gretteft pairt accum-paneit the Laird of Minto and his fone, quhome (eftir ve haid puit the prowett in my Lordis of Wigtoun howfs for his fwirtie, and haid commandit the bail5eis, in his maiesties name, to chaarge the Laids of Minto and thair compliffs to thair lwdging, and had extendit all owr athoritie in his maiesties name), 5it cwild nocht fwa meikle preveill, that thei wald contein thame selffis in thair lwdginis, bot with greit difficultie cwild refist thame, on forsing the pairt quhair we flwid to hawld of thair fiorce. We

\* The Stewarts of Minto were for a long series of years provosts of Glasgow. The family is now, it is understood, extinct. Paton, in a MS. Memorandum-book, in possession of the Editor, has noted down—"There was an old family, Stewart of Minto, near Glasgow, as in the High Church of Glasgow appears from a funeral monument, on the left in the entry into the church, engraved on a copper or brass plate, where six or eight more generations, enumerated as knights created under the banner."—"Query, if true, the last of the family was a poor boy, who was sent into Edinburgh barefooted, with a letter to Stewart of Coltness, who [being] promising, was recommended to the Duke of Hamilton, who took him under his Grace's protection, got some education, and afterwards went abroad to Darien, where he died. The mother was of the Whitfoord family, and so poor, that she retired to a town or place near to Dalserf, called Miltonn, where she procured subsistence for herself and son by spinning."

† Sir George Elphinstoun of Blythwood "was a burges and provost of this town, he rose by the favour of King James VI. to be a great man; he was knighted, and made a Lord of the Session, and Gentleman of the Bedchamber. King Charles I. raised him to be Lord Justice Clerk, and he held the office till his death, which was in the year 1634. He got the Gorbals erected into a burgh of barony and regality; but beheld the instability of human greatness: for he was the only burges in all Scotland that I ever observed came to the highest office, and made the greatest figure, and yet died so poor, that his corps was arrested by his creditors, and his friends buried him privately, in his own chappel adjoining to his house." *M'Ure's Glasgow*. 1736, 8vo. p. 63. According to *Scotstarvet*, he "was in his youth in great credit with King James VI., and lay in bed with him many years, but was discountred by Sir George Home (afterwards Earl of Dunbar) before the King's going to England." Page 132. He married Agnes, third daughter of Thomas fifth Lord Boyd, by whom he had a son and a daughter. The former died without issue; and the latter married Colonel John Maxwell, son of Sir James Maxwell of Calderwood.

will wreitt sparenlie of thair infulent behaveowr, aganis commandementis gevin in his hienes authoritie, and misregaird of ws quha hes the honour to be his maiesties confellors, will remitt the tryell thair of to the avin tyme, quhan we fall declair the veritie of all theis proceedingis; and in the meine tyme to eschew forder inconvenient, eftir we haid causit mak proclamatioun in his maiesties name, that all men fwild repair to thair lwidginis, and the brwnzie wes sum quhat pecefeit, als weill for the misbehaviour and misregaird of the commandementis in his hienes name, and of ws execewteris thair of, as also for prewenting of forder twmult, quhille his maiestie or his hienes Privie Confell might deliberat, quhat ewirs falbe takin for pwnifching and fatteling the famyn, quhilk no dowt gif it had nocht chainfit ws to be heir at ane particular tryift, wald have twirrit to greit inconvenient, and can noicht weill eschew 3it, gif the famyn be nocht preventit. In respect quhair of, we thoicht meitest to chairge the Lairdis of Minto, elder and 3ownger, to entir thame felfis within the castell of Dumbartan, withe all diligens, to [till?] his maiestie, and lordes of his hienes Privie Counfell, forder plefour wer knawin; and in lyk maner, Sir George Elphinstoun to entir in waird within the castell of Glasgow: As also, to command the bailzeis to mak proclamatiounis, that naine indwellaris within thair burgh, offir iniwrie be onay maner of way to utheris, bot that thai fwild keip the kingis pace wnder the paine of deithe; and that naine of thame fwild weir wapinis invafeiff within the brweh, bot behave thame felfis in quyeitt maner, as thei wald be answerable on thair perellis: And forder, to chairge thrie of the speeciallis on ather pairtie to entir thame felfis, the ane pairtie within the castell, and the wther within the Tolbwith of Glasgow, till forder ordour wes takin be the counfell. The skyth is noicht greitt, onlye ane man callit Thomas Cloggye deid, without onye woinde, and fondrie hwirt withe stauis, quhilk wes to ws greteft impediment to slay thame. The Lairdis of Minto, as we are informit, ar passit to Dumbartane, and Sir George hes enterit in this castell, withe sick of his pairtie as wee commandit. Swa, haiving doine quhat ley in ws, to procwir his maiesties obedience and paice of this townn, quhair ve chainfit to be for the tyme, remittis to 3our lordschip, to deliberat quhat forder ordour falbe takin heirin, baith for tryell and pwnifching of this

ryett, and faitling thair of, will tak owr leif, committing your lordship to  
God. Restis

Your Lordship allwred to power,

WIGTOUN.

MONTROIS.

KILSATUN.

We have also acquaintit my Lord Chainfeller thairwith.

Glasgow, the xxiiij Julij 1606.

To my varie gwid Lord, my Lord  
Erle off Dunbar.

XLVI.—THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL TO KING JAMES VI.

AUGUST 27, 1606.

MOST GRATIOUS SOUERANE,

According to your hienes directioun signefeit vnto ws be your  
maiesteis faithfull counfallor the Erle of Dunbar, we did call and con-  
vene befor the counfall the Erllis of Eglintoun and Glencarne, and  
Glencarne and the Lord Semple, with a number of thair freindis, quhome  
we knew to haue cheifest interest in the present feid standing betuix  
thame, and efter that we had declarit vnto thame the great panes and  
travellis quhilk your sacred maiestie tuke in your hienes awin persone, for

extinguifhing of the name and memorie of deidlie feidis, what goode futes had followit upoun your maiefties travellis in fome of the gritteft feidis of this kingdome, and how that your maieftie had now recommendit to the counfall the removing of this feud, whilk hes bene of fua lang continewance, and be reflone of the minoritie of the Erle of Eglintoun, could not quhill now tak effect, we burdynit thame with a fubmiffioun conforme to the act of parliament. The Erle of Glencarne pretendit that thair wes no quarrell betuix him and Eglintoun, and that a fubmiffioun wes vnneceffar, and in end he directlie refuist to fubmitt, becaus the fubmiffioun importat agains him a guiltynes of the flaughter of the unquhile Erle of Eglintoun, whilk he will never tak vpoun him, bot offeris him reddy to the tryall of the lawis for that flaughter, whilk tryall on his pairt aucht to proceed the fubmiffioun. We rememberit him of ane fubmiffioun fuferyuit be him felf in this fame matter, agreable in euery worde to that whilk wes now defyrit, when this matter wes laft in handis afor the counfall in Februar 1604, bot he, ftanding vpoun his innocency of that flaughter, refuist to fubmitt. Eglintoun maid no refusall, bot pretending fome excufe vpoun the fhortnes of the warning, he only craued a continewatioun to be aduyfit with his freyndis, becaus this wes the firft tyme that euer he wes chairgit in this matter fen his minoritie. And the Lord Semple very frelie, for your maiefties fatiffactioun and obedience, without ony ceremony offerit to fubmitt. We haue grantit vnto Eglintoun, with his awin confent, the twenty day of November nixt, to be aduyfit with his freindis, and to come prouydit in that mater. We haue no affurance of the Erle of Glencarnis obedience, bot the hoip that he will conforme himfelf to your maiefties pleaffour, and the Lord Semple wilbe obedyent. We had lykwayes in handis this proces of Glasgou, quhairin we haue fund a very great infolence and ryott committit be Mynto and a nowmer of the commons of the toun, and hes committit the perfons guilty to warde within the burgh of Linlythgow, quhill your maiefties pleaffour be knowne. This is all that we haue done at this meitting, wherwith we haue thocht meit to mak your maieftie acquainted, to the effect your hienes may gif directioun thairin, as your maieftie fall think goode, whilk we



fal profequute and follow oute. And fua, praying God to blyffe your  
faced maieftie with a lang, happy, and prosperous reigne, we reft

Your Maiefties moft humble fubicctis  
and feruitours,

MONTROISS.  
AL. CANCELL<sup>r</sup>.  
LINLITHGOW.  
WIGTOUN.  
ELPHINSTOUN.  
J. SECRETAR.

Lynlythqw, the 27 of Auguft [1606?]

To the Kinges moift excellent Maieftie.

XLVII.—THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE\* TO KING JAMES VI.

SEPTEMBER 4, 1606.

MAIST SACRED SOUERAYNE,

It pleafed your maieftie to recommend vnto your elaities, at  
the laft feffion of the parliament, in this kingdome, the inhabitants of  
Dounbartane, that fome help might be granted to thame of the baill  
countrie, to mak fome defence to thair toun, agains the furgefs and in-  
undatiounes of the feas, whilk is lykely to deffroye and tak away that  
baill toun, and can not be defendit nor repulfitt be naa moyane, thair  
poore habilitie and fortunes are hable to furneifche. Theefe whoe had

\* Upon the 6th of Auguft, the Lord Chancellor addreffed a few lines to the King, in which he  
fays, "Yesterday, in great zealle and affeetion, we haiffall celebrat the blessed memoire off your  
sacred Maiefties happie delyverie from the traitour Gowreis treacherous and devilifche conffpiracie,  
acknowledgeing all thairin the faiftie, prefervatioun, and greatest evidents of Goddis providence,  
and favorable eyes vpon this Iland, Empire, and Cowmounwealthe, that eiver hes been fchawin."

the commiffioun to vifeitt that mater maid thair rapport, that be good confideratioun and calculatioun, naa lefs nor threttie thowfand pounds Scottes was hable to furnifche the charges to fic a wark. The Lordes of Articles, and others of the eftaitts than convenit, thocht not meit nor expedient, at that tyme, to lay twa taxatiounes vppon the countrie, onder tua feuerall naymes, bot with good will granted the taxatioun or fubfidie, the greater vnto your facred maieftie, in hope that your hienes, wpon good confideratiounes, in your wifdome and wounted clemencie towards your poore fubjects, wald beftow fome portioun thairrof, for the faiftie and prefervatioun of that poore toun. Whilk, at that tyme, the hail eftaitts willed me to recommend vnto your facred maieftie, lykas, I doubt not bot my Lord Erle of Dunbar will fchawe your maieftie at greater lenthe. And I hope your maift gracious hienefs will direct fome good prouifoun to be maid thairfoir, to the confort and contentment of your maiefties poore fubjects of the faid toun, wha will ewer remayne your hienes maift bund and deuote oratours; lykas, I, praying the Eternall lang to continew your facred maieftie in all prosperitie and contentment, reftis

Your facred Maiefties maift humbill and  
obedient fubiect and feruitour,

DUNFERMELINE.

Nedrie, 4 September 1606.

To the Kingis moft excellent Maieftie.

XLVIII.—THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE TO KING JAMES VI.

[OCTOBER 1606.]

MAIST SACRED SOUERAINE,

Thay haue bene great maters, and heiche defeyngs, your maieftie hes had this fommer in this kingdome: And albeit your hienes princelie

intentionnes hes not laiked thair impediments and difficulteis, whilk all alteratiounes and nouelteis caryes, your dewyfe newertheles hes bene fwa wyfe, and weill grundit, and your instrumens faa fit, that all (thankes to God) is succedit at wiffes to your hienes contentment, and to the contentment off all good and peceabill subiects. This I can not of my deutie omitt to testifie, that the Erle of Dunbar, be his industrie, trawell, diligence, and extraordinair moyane, and credeit with the nobilitie and haill estaittes, hes maruelouslie aduanced the good successe off all hes bene done: as he hes bene trayned wp from his youthe at your sacred maiesteis feett, hes eiver bene a great obserwer off all your maiesteis vertieus, fwa I think nayne can ather fwa weill tak wp the drift of your maiesteis plattis, nor zit with sic dexteritie follow furthe the fame, euen to the utter poynt of your maiesteis blank, as he can doe, and hes gevin sufficient prooffe at this tyme, baith in the Borders, whilk he has fatled, far by onye thing that eiver hes bene done thair befor, or zit might be thought habill to be done in sa schort spaice, and in sic multitude off other great interpreifes, and also in the parliament, whair his behaviour with the diversitie off humours off our nobillmen and others, schew weell he had narrowlie remarked manye lessons and documents off your sacred maiesteis proceedings in sic affaires. Bot this I am certane, will be declaired all to yior hienes at greater leuthe, and better nor I can vryte, be divers off your speciall ferwands, and officears wha ar thair presentlie, besides that deid, and the event doeis furneis sufficient testimonie of his fidelitie, care, sinceritie, and wifdome, in the governament off all thir affaires.

The present estaite of the countrie is maruelous quyet in all other nor this truble of the peste, whilk is spred, and does great harme in diners pairts, a mater to be recommendit specialie to Goddis mercie, in sua far as men can mak lytle suppart to the fame. Some domestic affliction is fallin on my selfe, whilk I can nather dissemble, nor will denye, bot greives me mightelie, gif it war otherwayes I war onnaturall, fenseles, and owir floic. I hope alwayes it shall diuert me from naa poynt of my deutie in your sacred maiesteis service. All shall be waited on, in sic affliction, cair, and foirsicht as I can furneife, the mair diligentlie now, that I hawe few heir at this tyme to help or supplie me. The counfall

shall be convenient at sic tymes and plaices as may be maist convenient, and your sacred maiestie shall be aduerteist off all proceidings in onye extraordinair accident. This, most humblie taking my leiwe, and praying the Eternall to preferue eternallie your hienes, and all your royall posteritie, in all blifs and felicitie, restis

Your sacred Maiesteis maist humbill and  
obedient subiect and feruitour,

DUNFERMELYNE.

[October 1606?].\*

To the King his most excellent Maiestie.

XLIX.—THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE TO KING JAMES VI.

OCTOBER 30, 1606.

MAIST SACRED SOUERANE,

The suffisance of this berar is fik, and fwa weell knowne vnto your sacred maiestie, that I war in the vrong to importune your hienes with langer letter or discourfe, in the proceidings heir in all affaires, or directiounes send hither be your maiestie with my Lord Secretair, or with the berar. He saw and hard what was done in all, and can declair the same to your maiestie at lenthe, better nor I can vryte. I hope your hienes shall think thair is als mekle done as can be in sic a tyme, for in all the corners off this kingdome this contagious siknes is fwa spreadde. that nather broughe nor land in onye pairt is free.

\* No date, but from the reference to the plague, probably written in October 1606.

*Mista fenum et juuenum denfantur funera.*

The tounes off Air and Striveling ar almoste desolat.\* This estait and calamitie binders all meitingis off counfall, and all publict functiones for ministratioun of iustice, and maintenance of good reulle and government, except sik as we tak at starts, with some few at Edenburgh, or in sik other place for a day, to keip some countenance of ordour and cair off your maiesteis peace and obedience, whilk does mekle good for als fynderlie as we meitt, and shall be sua continewed, till it pleis God to releive the land of this affliction. I haill likewayes desired this berar to satisfie your sacred maiestie in some crediēt deliwered to me, be my Lord Secretair in your hienes nayme, whairvnto he was also witnes; I find my selfe alwayes infinitlie addebtet to your maiesteis favour and clemencie; bot I hope your hienes shall onderstand that these reportes has na grounds other nor malice, or inweye, whilk I know nocht how I can haif deferwed of onye man, except in a sincere, upricht, and direct obeying and following all your maist gracious maiesteis maist princelie and iuste commandements. Whairin I intend newertheless to continew still even to my lifes end. Swa, praying the Eternall lang to preferue your sacred maiestie in all prosperitie and good successe, I reffe

Your sacred Maiesties maist humbill and  
obedient subiect and seruitour,

DUNFERMELYNE.

Dunfermyne, 30 Octobris 1606.

To the King his maist excellent Maiestie.

\* In the Chronicle of Perth, p. 9, it is said that the plague raged in the south of Scotland from June to February 1603. In 1605, we are told that there was "great pestilence in Leith, Edinburgh, and sundry places." It came to Perth, August 29, 1608, "and continewit till May thereafter, 1609, quherin deit young and auld, 500 persons." P. 12. The plague thus appears to have been almost stationary in Scotland for upwards of six years.

## L.—COMMISSIONERS OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO KING JAMES VI.

DECEMBER 16, 1606.

PLEASE YOUR MOST SACRED MAIESTIE,

Having for obedience of your hienes letter bene presnt at the Assemblie of Lithgow as your maiesties commissioners, and thairin done oure most humbill and faithfull indeuors to sie all thinges grauelie and wyfelie proceedit vnto for the weill and peace of the kirk, quyetnes of the cuntrey, and dew obedience of your maiesties autoritie, according to the most wyfe and prouident directions and instructions fend to ws be your maiestie thairanent. Albeit, the great distractions standing this whyle bygane amangis the ministrie, and hard opinions alswell preconfaued be findrie of thame, as by ane great number of your hienes vther subiectis of dyuers pourposfes hardlie intended agains the libertie of the discipline and policie of the kirk to be wrocht at this tyme, maid the beginning of oure trauellis full of doubt and difficulties, yet that blifing of God, whilk ordinarlie accompanies the iustice of your maiesties most holie and wyfe disleigns, efter many appearances of great opposition to haue bene maid to all that we could haue proponed, kythed so forcibill at this tyme, that efter oure declaration of your hienes constant fauour to the kirk and all godlie and dewtifull ministers, and thair consideration of the acceptabill contentis of your most gracious letter directed to the assemblie, thair myndis wer thairby so far chainged, that first thay ordanit your maiesties letter to be inkuked in thair register, and persauing be the progres of oure actions, how great your maiesties caire wes to repres and puneis the papistis, and to menteane the kirk in thair liberties, and strenthen thame with the power of your maiesties autoritie, the sight of thair former error, and of the vnexpected weill offered to thame in your maiesties name, maid the hail assemblie, and evin these, wha came of set powrpose to haue opposed to the power and lausfulness thair of, and to oure hail proceedingis thairin, to consent to all that wes concluded with greater moderation and vniformitie, nor euer wes sene in any former assemblie. Whairof your maiestie will vnderstand the particulars be the

actis thair of ordanit to be extracted and fend to your maiestie. Swa that in end, all that wer presnt, alfwell of the nobilitie, counfall, baronis, and ministrie having vote, as the rest wha came to haue opponed to oure power and proceedingis, in ane voce gaue most hairtlie thankis to God for your maiesties contineuance of your loue to this your natie cuntrey, and caire of the weill of your faithfull subiectis, and libertie of the kirk thair of, and most affectuouly requested ws, in all thair names, to giue to your maiestie most humbill, hairtlie, and vnfeyned thankis for the exceeding confort whilk thay haue reslaued be the gracious effectis vttered at this tyme, of your maiesties constant affection to this kirk and cuntrey, for the whilk, albeit thay can not offer or performe any farder nor thair former dewtie band thame to do, yit, we ar assured, that thay will neuer cease to wih to thame fells the happines to haue occasion to manifeste to the worlde how earnestlie thay desyre to mak it knawin be thair actions, and all that the frie and readie bestowing of thair trauellis, moyeus, bloude, or lyues can effectuat, how far thay think thame fells bund beyond the ordinar dewtie of common subiectis to thair prince, to expresse thair infinit loue, and humbill and faithfull affection to your maiestie for your innumerabill and daylie increffing benefites and fauouris to thame. And becaus we haue most evidentlie sene this thair request to proceed of the sincere affection of thair faithfull hairtis, we haue tane this bauldenes trewlie to recorde the samin to your maiestie at thair earnest desyre, hoping that your maiestie wald graciouslie accept it in gude pairt. Whairin humblie crauing your maiesties pardoun for oure presumption, we besek God long to preferue your maiesties lyfe and health, and to increas your hienes prosperitie, honour, and contentment. At Edinburgh, the 16 of December 1606.

Your Maiesties most humbill and faithfull  
seruands,

MONTROISS.

S<sup>r</sup>. JOHNE SKENE.

J. LINDESAY.

JO. PRESTOUN.

BLANTYRE.

To the Kingis most excellent Maiestie.

LI.—THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE TO KING JAMES VI

JANUARY 7, 1607.

MAIST SACRED SOUERANE,

As it micht be condemned for presumptuous importunitie, giff I fould jornalie with idle letters, trouble your facred ees, or divert your princelie thochtes from weghtiar affaires, zit doe I fear the censure and blame of fleuthe and fluggifchenes, giff, in the estaite and rank it hes pleafed your royall maieftie, abowe all merite or valour in me, off your onlie favour and benignitie, to place me, I fould nocht at tymes geive your facred hienes fome accompt of the generall estaite off this your maiefteis auncient kingdome; for, as to the daylie particulars, I doubt not bot be my Lord Secretairs\* diligence, and other officears, your maieftie hes speciall informatiounes, aduerteifments, and intelligence, with full satisfiatioun. The courfe of iustice, thanks to God, is werie weele fatled; and trewlie, I think, nather thair be, or can iustlie be, ony complaint of wrang done, or zit for laike of dew and tymous miniftratioun of iustice.

In the Hielands, the McGregours affaires lyis owir, partlie be the feafoun of the year, and partlie be my Lord of Ergyles abfence, whome we looke daylie for.

The countrie of Atholl, and adjacentis about it, throw the imbecillitie and weaknes of this Earle, and intricat estaite of that houfe, is now in warft rewl and ordour of anye pairt of theefe countries, whilk was wount to be maist obedient of thame all; but your maiefteis Secreit Counfall heir is presentlie on the adwyfement how to reforme and putt ordour to that pairt, whilk I hope fhall be done fchortlie, to your hienes contentment. All the reft of the Hielands ar in sic ordour and obedience, as we heir na complaint off thame, nor of naa infolence in thame.

As the first terme of the taxatioun, or fubfidie, accorded vnto your maieftie be the last fessioun of parliament, is approtcheing, to wit, Can-

\* James Elphinstone, Lord Balmerino.



dlemets, swa is the charges for the same going furthe and about, with all diligence may be required, in theese officears. As it was maist willinglie and plefandlie granted, for maist iust and plaufible causses, I hope will be maist willinglie, thankfullie, and but onye grudge, payed be all good subiectis.

Thair is not swamekle as anye talke at this tyme, in this countrie, off anye mater of estaite, except it be some lytle of thir churche maters, and of thair differences, whilks ar also marveloufflie fasted and quieted, and, be all aperance, will schortlie wear to a full conformitie to your sacred maiesteis godlie and princelie disseyng.

After your sacred maiesteis dewyfe, and be your exprefs directioun, this passed yeare the counfall hes composed and quieted findrie of the greatest deadlie feads was in this kingdome. At the enterie of this yeare, we ar to beginne with the auldest fead hes bene of thame all, betuix the Earles of Eglintoun\* and Glencairne,† thair houffles and haill consequentis, whilk hes ewer bene haddin aff all tymes bigane, wpon the Earle of Eglintounes minoritie and lefs age. The 15 day off this monethe is appoynted thairfoir, and all pairteis on ather fydes summoned to that effect, and ordour tane for assurances betuix thame all, in the middle tyme, als convenientlie as might be. God send the successe, according to your maiesteis ferwandis and counfalloures desire and affection, and it will be weell aneuche. I assure your maiestie, I shall omitt naa thing may ly in my powar, ather be authoritie I hawe of your hienes, or be moyane credeit or freindschipt I hawe with anye of the pairteis, to worke that purpose, to your majesties worthie and good intentioun.

What ewer anye may speik of me, ather in this or onye other your

\* Hugh, fifth Earl of Eglintoun. His Lordship married his cousin-german, Margaret, daughter of Robert Montgomery of Giffen, but having no issue, he settled his earldom on Sir Alexander Seton, son of Margaret, Countess of Winton, his aunt, and his heirs-male, whom failing, Thomas and John Seton, fourth and fifth sons of the Countess, and the heirs-male of their bodies; whom all failing, to his own nearest and lawful heirs-male whatsoever, bearing the name and arms of Montgomery. He died in the year 1612, and after his demise the honours were assumed by Sir Alexander Seton, and the reader is referred to the interesting documents in the Melros Papers relative to the ultimate recognizal of his right.

† James, seventh Earl of Glencairn.

facred majesties directiounes, in dew tryall, my pairt shall ewer be found according to my dewtie, fwa far as my judgement and possibilitie may extend, to follow and fett fordwart all may proceed from the ordonances and commandements of your hienes great wifdome, whilk I think newer to dispute off, or bring in contrauerfie, as I confide assuredlie in your accustomat princelie justice and clemencie, that naa reporte shall ather prewaill, or have anye plaice, credeit, or accefs aganis my lawfull and vpright meaning and doing to the meafour of my strenthe. This being all I can vrite to your majestie for the present, in all humilitie, taking my leive, and praying the Eternall lang to continew your royall perfoun and your princelie posteritie to this warlds end, in all prosperitie, grandeur, and contentment abowe ws, restis

Your facred Maiesties maist humbill and obedient  
subjeçt and feruitour,

DUNFERMELYNE.

Edenburgh, 7 January 1607.

To the King his most excellent Maiestie.

LII.—LORD BALMERINO TO KING JAMES VI.

JANUARY 21, 1607.

PLEAS YOUR SACRED MAIESTIE,

The fyftene of this instant being appoynted for the dealing betuix the Erllis of Eglintoun and Glencairne, the counfell, in very frequent number, hes been in no lytill bufynes to gett the pairtyis broght till ony conformitie; and, albeit the panes hes been very great, yitt the succefs of our laubouris hes takin away the memorie of our travell, for boith the principallis for thame felffis, and thair freyndis, and all the particularis that wer pairttakaris of that feid, ilkane for thame felffis, hes

subferyved a submiſſioun to ſax on ather fyde, or ony three of thame, viz. Eglintoun to the Lairdis of Drumlangrig, Garleis, Caruell, Kilfyth, Sir Johnne Bruce of Kincavill, and Andro Ker, bruther to the Erll of Lothiane; and Glencairne to the Lord Catheart, the Lairdis of Glenvrquhy, Blair, Pollok Maxwell, Reidhall and Barrochane, with pouer to thame to chufe ane ourifinan, who ſhall convene and accept the ſaid mater vpoun thame, the xxiiij of Februaire nixt, and decerne thairin, within the ſpace of thretty dayis efter thair acceptatioun; wherin yff thay fail, boith pairteis hes moift humblie remitted the compoſing of the hoill feid to your ſacred maieſtie, to be fettled be ſuche as your maieſtie ſhall imploy as moift fitt for that purpois: vnder the compaſe wherof not only is compryfed the Erll of Eglintoun, Abbot of Kilwyning, and diuers other ſlaughteris acceſſorie to that feid, bot many bloodis of great antiquitie betuix theſe houffis, thair freindis and dependaris, the not quencheing wherof did ſtill fofter that peſtiferous humour, whilk, in end, did burſt oute in that cruell ſlaughter of the Erll of Eglintoun,\* revengeit with no les rigour on the other part ſenſyne, wherin the partyis being ſo great and mony, and the rancour ſo inveterat, thair wes almoiſt no hoop of ony end of it, yff the Erll of Dunbarris particulier dealing with ather party, and wyifs vſing of your maieſteis authoritie with great cair and dexteritie, had not terrifeit thame, ſo as in end, efter mony nycht and dayis werk, it is broght to a happy begynning, wherof we hoop the end ſalbe to the great peace of the cuntrey, and your maieſteis contentment.

Thair wes lykwayes ſome dangerous heit and vnkyndlie diſlykeing betuixt the Erll of Wigtoun and Maſter of Montrois on the ane parte, and the Lord of Blantyre and Mynto† on the other; whilk, with the lyke cair and dexteritie vntroubling the counſell, the Erll of Dunbar hes reconciled. And now, laſt, whilk is the end of theſe Glaſgw broyllis, the

\* Hugh, fourth Earl of Eglintoun, ſucceeded his father in June 1585, but did not enjoy his title a full year, as, on the 18th of April 1586, when riding from his houſe of Polnoon to Stirling, he was attacked and murdered by the Laids of Robertland and Corſehill, and others of the name of Cunningham, between whom and the Montgomeries a feud had ſubſiſted for a long courſe of years.

† Stewart of Minto. The Elliots of Minto are a modern family, and the eſtate from which they take their title is in the county of Roxburgh.

particulair betuix Mynto eldair and youngair, and thair freyndis, my cofine Sir George and his followaris, is submittit to the Erll of Dunbar, wherin we expect no wer successe nor God hes gevin to the rest of his labouris.

In counsell wer lykwayes red your maiesteis letters, presented by the Bischop of Orkney, wherin, as the moift judicious of that number did acknowledge your maiesteis aune werk, so iust and cheritable to sik as by lenitie may be recalled, not omitting, in end, the remedyis of disperat cures, exacting penalteis dew for thair disobedyence, and irrogating panes for contempt; so, by the hole number the letter wes imbraced with that applause and desyir, that the copyis of it shuld be disperfed to come in the handis of all honnest subiectis, and the commandimentis contenit thairin shuld be moift exactlie putt to dew executioun.

The lyk acceptance wes of the other, anent the moderatoris appointed by the lait assembly of Lynlythgow, and that all siche as willinglie wald not conforme thame selfis thairvnto, shuld be chargeit be the counsell in maner contenit in your maiesteis directioun.

Twisday nixt, we haif the gentilmen of Athoill, and other cuntreyis bordouring thairto, for fetling these boundis, allweill anent the brokin men of that cuntrey, as the Clangregour, who, howsoeuir thay ar become your maiesteis cofines, ar litill better manert nor befoir.

This is the foune of the last counsellis labour, wherin your maiestie may consider what hinderance is to your maiesteis seruice, when, by the plague, the ordinar cours of sitting vpoun your maiesteis affairis is interrupted, and what furtherance it is to your maiesteis seruice sometymes to spair the Erll of Dunbar to be with us, whose dispositioun in your maiesteis seruice, as being sufficientlie knowne to your maiesteis self, neidis not my recommendioun:—and what terrour to malefactouris, and steidfast hoop of peace and justice to all goode men that duellis ather within the boundis of the late marcheis or cuntreyis nixt adiaacent vnto thame, this ouerfight and begynning of imployment your maiestie hes layed vpoun him, over these officiaris, your maiestie will heir of otheris; so that, yff his body wer als able to sustene the panes of your maiesteis seruice, as his mynd is willing, and dexteritie rair to accomplishe the same, no imployment could be to him impossible.

In the satting of thir materis of Glasgw betuix the Lord of Blantyr, Mynto, and Sir George Elphinstoun, the principall poynt is the repofitioun of the gentilmen who wer brokin of thair placeis by my Lord Duke of Lennox, whilk your maiestie wilbe gratioufflie pleased to see performed; for all other thingis amang thame ar compofed vpoun the fairfaid conditioun.

The Erll of Dunbar hes putt Maister James Nicolfoun\* and Maister Andro Lamb† to ane poynt, fo I hoope your maiestie falbe als wele pleased with those twa bishopis as ony of the rest, and that thair labouris in that work fall not be improffitabie. Sua, moift humelie craving your maieftis pardoun for my lang letter, I pray God to grant vnto your maiestie a lang and happy regnn, and eternall felicitie. Frome your maieftis palice of Halvruidhous, the xxi day of Januair 1607.

Your Maieftis moift humble and obedyent  
subiect and feruitour,

J. BALMERINOGH.

To the Kingis moift excellent Maiestie.

#### LIII.—THE MARQUIS OF HUNTLY TO KING JAMES VI.

PLEIS YOUR MOST EXCELLENT, MOST MIGHTIE, AND  
IMPERIALL MAIESTIE,

Being honorit be the reception of your most mightie maiesties lettre, and hauing hard at lenth the Erlle of Dumbar's credit, I haue taine the boldnes be this present, to utter sum pairt of my mening befor the tym cum, nou that I haue to gif proof of sik simple feruis as I may do. I haue langit to be honorit with your most excellent maiesties com-

\* Parson of Meigle, preferred to the Bishoprick of Dunkeld in 1606. He died on the 17th August the succeeding year.

† Minister at Burntisland. He obtained the Bishoprick of Brechin in 1606, was translated to Galloway in 1619, where he sat till his death in 1634.

mandement, not for onie good that I can do in your most michtie maiesties feruis, bot onlie to haue occasioun to utter that more than addettit affection quhilk I carie, and euer fall gif proof of, not onlie nou at this parlement, quhar my uot, and all that I may mou, fall euer be to follou your most michtie maiestis will, bot with maist uilling hairt, falbe euer readie to uar my blood and all that will follou me, quhanfoeuer the occasioun presentis, that it may gif proof of my loyall affectioun to your most michtie maiesties feruis; for I acknauledge my self far more detbound to your most excellent maiesties admirable constancie, by onie of my deferts, than euer uill ly in ane thousand of me till acquit. Bot forder, I can not gif nor that I haue, quhilk is to gif proof that your most michtie maiesties thocht, gif I can knau it, fall euer ferue me for performans of your most excellent maiestis plesour and uill, and I am forie that my lot hes cassin me fua far from my gretest contentment, quhilk is your most michtie maiesties presens; bot in affectioun I fall not be distant, till I haue that honour as to kis your most excellent maiesties hand, quhilk I lang for. The Erle of Dumbar, I beleue, will ureit mair ample of my mening to your most michtie maiesties feruis. Sua, crauuing humble pardon for this my tediousnes, eftir the kissing maist humble of your most michtie maiesties hand, I will pray God to gif me grace to do your most michtie maiestie sum acceptable feruis or I die, for the monie fauours I haue refaiuit, and to preferue your most excellent, most michtie, and imperiall maiestie, in lang and happie lyf, and maist prosperous rengen.

Your most excellent, most michtie, and imperiall  
 Maiesties humble subiect, and most affectionat  
 seruiteur to my last braith,

HUNTLYE.

To his most excellent, most michtie, and  
 imperiall Maiestie, King of Greit  
 Britaine, France, and Yrland.

## LIV.—THE EARL OF ARGYLE TO KING JAMES VI.

FEBRUARY 28, 1607.

SIRE,—PLEIS YOUR SACRED MAJESTIE,

According to your hienes command, the Marques of Huntly and I hes mett, and hes appointed the xxiv day of Junj nyxt, for concluding the mariage your majestie ordeined betuix his Lordships sone and my dochter, whiche hes maide me so bold as to entrait your hienes most humble to gif his Lordship foone leif to cum to this cuntrie, for the accomplishing the same ; and thaireftir quhateuir pleifis your maiestie to direct concerning that mater falbe obeyed be me, sua far as I am hable to accomplissh. Sua, praying God to grant your maiestie ane long and prosperous reinge, I rest

Your Majesties most obedient subiect,

ARGYLL.\*

Edgell, the 28 of Februer [1607.]

To the Kings most excellent Majestie.

\* This letter has no date. But according to Wood's Douglas, Lady Anne Campbell was "married, in 1607, to George, second Marquis of Huntly, and had issue, and died at Aberdeen, 14th June 1638."

## LV.—THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL TO KING JAMES VI.

MARCH 3, 1607.

MOIST GRATIOUS SOUERAYNE,

Afor the reflett of your maiefteis letter, concerning the Erll of Athoill, he had meant him felff to your maiefteis counfell, fhowing how mony great and weghtie adoīs he had in handis, tuicheing the eftate of his houfe, wherin he could tak no folide ordour during the tyme of his warde. The counfaill knowing a parte thair of, and mony of the extremitis whervnto he is redactit, thay tranſportit his warde fra the caſtell to the burgh of Edinburgh, vpoun goode cautoun of xxx<sup>m</sup> merkis for his remaning and keiping warde thairin whill he be fred.\* This band fall ly aboue his head whill the difordourit eftate of Athoill be fetled. Thair hes bene a preuey dealing be ſome of your maiefteis counfell, anent the apprehenſioun of Johnne Dow M<sup>c</sup>Gillichallum, and Allafter, his bruther; and your maiefteis chancellor delt particularlie heirin with James Gordoun of Lefmoir. This gentilman, in regaird of your maiefteis obedyence and ſeruice, by the earniſt entreatie and foliſtatioun of your maiefteis chancellor, tuke the ſeruice in hand, and haueing maid mony purpoiffis for effectuating thair of, whilkis miſgaif him: in end, he lichted vpoun the lymmaris, vpoun the† day of Februaire laſt, and efter a lang and hett combatt, and flaughter of ſome fyve or foure of the principallis of thame, the ſaid Allafter wes apprehendit, and Johnne, being very evill hurte, by mirknes of the night eſcaipid. This Allafter wes the perſonall executour of all the murthouris contrived be himſelff and his bruther, and hes bene one of the moſt notable and maifterfull lymmaris that hes bene in the Heylandis thir mony yearis. Thair wes great entreaty, and mony fair promiſſis maid be his freyndis for his releiff, bot the gentilman, his taikair, preferring your maiefteis ſeruice, and his awne honnour, to thair offeris,

\* See Melros Papers, vol. i. p. 30.

† This blank occurs in the MS.



and to ony futur event, hafaird, or inconvenient, whilk doubtles he will vndirly, he hes presentit him heir, within the Tolbuith of Edinburgh, wher he is maid fast in the irlis, and falbe tane ordour with accordinglie: we hoip that his bruther fall not lang efchaip, and no goode meanis falbe omittit whilkis may entrap him.\* And feing this gentilman hes fo far advanceit him felf in your maieftis feruice, and hes red the cuntrey of fache a maifterfull theif and lymmar, we wilbe bauld to recommend him vnto your maieftis fauourable confideratioun and remembrance, wherby he and otheris may be encourageit to vndirtak the lyke feruice heirefter. The tyme of our parliament being now approcheing, at the 18 of this instant, we humelie requeift your maieftie to latt ws knaw your heynes pleafour anent the continuatioun of the fame. And fua, we pray God to grant vnto your maieftie a lang and happy reigmn, and eternall felicitie. Frome your maieftis burgh of Edinburgh, the thrid of Marche 1607.

Your Maieftis moift humble and  
obedyent feruitouris,

MONTROISS.  
AL. CANCELL.  
LOTHIANE.  
JO. PRESTOUN.

HALYRUDHOUS.  
J. COKBURNE.  
R. COKBURNE.

To the Kingis moift excellent Maieftie.

\* This same month [February], Alexander Dow Mackgilleycallum, a notorious theiffe and murderer, was taken by the Laird of Lesse-more, Gordon; his brother Jhone was hurt, and five of his men killed. He was presented to the Lords of Counsaill, and thereafter arraigned and execute." Balfour's Annals, vol. ii. p. 21. Edinburgh, 1824, 8vo.

## LVI.—THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL TO KING JAMES VI.

MARCH 3, 1607.

PLEAS YOUR MOIST SACRED MAIESTIE,

We, your moift humble and loyallie affected feruandis, haueing hard of fome reprochefulle fpeicheis vttered in the lower houle, by fome evill difpofed fpirittis, to the difhonour of this your maiefties antient kingdome, and that only your maieftie had ftand to oure defence, we haif in all humilitie, by thefe prefentis, prefumed to tak notice of the fame, and to yeald your maieftie moift humble and hairtie thankis, not haueing committed any thing againis that ftate deferving fuche iniureyis, and far les worthy of fo great fauour, as it hes pleafed your gracious maieftie to vouchaif by vindicating ws frome their opprobrious calumneis. It is no litill greif to ws till heir what juft caufes of difcontentment ar miniftrat to your maieftie at all thofe meitingis, for enforceing that vnioun fo greatlie heated by thame, and fo litell affected by ws, except in that religious obedyence we aught to your maieftie, not to deflyke any thing that lykis your heynes. And yff it may pleas your facred maieftie, without offence, to heir oure apologyis, in defence of the honnour of oure cuntrey, we doubt not to mak it knowne, be the trew recordis of bygane tymes, fence this lland hes bene firft inhabitit, that in no poynt of finceir chriftianitie to God, loyall obedyence till oure princes, inviolat freindfchip with oure confederatis, and vnconquered libertie of our eftate, we haif nevir bene inferiour to thame. And in the very fubiect of the vnioun, whairat thay pretend fo many friuolous exceptionis, that their advantage falbe euerie way greitar nor ouris, we wald be fory to be authoures of diftraeting that, whiche your princelie wifdome and faderlie cair hes happelie contracted, haueing fo deeply takin in hait, fo to vnite thefe two kingdomes joyned by nature, but by affectioun altogidder diftant, as no markis of diverfitie betuix thame, till the efter comeing ageis fould ap-

peir ; yitt we ar perfuadit, that oure iust defence aganis these fals imputationis layed vpon all the natioun, not spairing your sacred maiestie, nor your moift royall progeny, nor your moift worthy ancefforis, of a hundreth and sex kingis lineallie discending of one flock, can not, bot in your maiesteis accustumed iustice, refave at your handis a fauourable censure; and yff in ony meitting, ather privat or publict, wherof we had mony, about that subiect, suche audience wes euir gevin till ony speeche, ather derogating to the honnour of that state, or dissuading the vnioun (howeuir thair be amangis ws not a few of the best fort, who ar als aliene frome it as ony of the lower house, and hes moir iust caus to be discontented, with so easie obliterating of bigane wrongis), latt it be till ws a disloyall pairt aganis your maiestie, and vnworthie of treu freindship aganis youre nyghtbouris; bot contrarie wayes, sick hes bene the diligent cair of your ministeris heir, vpon whome your maiestie is pleased to repose the waight of your affairis, that knowing your maiesteis eimist dispositioun to perfyte that vnioun, in all thair conferenceis thay haif labourit to extoll all the apparent benefeittis we myght reslave thairby, and to conceale and suppres the trew illis. In doing wherof, althoght we haif reportit small thankis of these, who so liberallie hes talked of ws, or those who, in so patient bearing, did cleirly manifest thair allowance of all wes spokin, yitt, your maiesteis princelie resenting our wrong, and vrgeing the tryall and pvnitheing thairof, is moir nor sufficient recompence, yff oure lyveis, and all oure fortuneisould be endangerit in ony thing, myght yeald your maiestie satisfactioun : and yff (vnder your maiesteis correctioun, to the whiche we alwayes submitt our selffis) your maiestie wald be pleased to desist frome ony forder moving of this vnioun, and mak knowne to that estate, that the whole inhabitantis of the ile ar your maiesteis subiectis, and that in all your seruiceis and imploymentis, yee will indifferentlie prefer those, whome your maiestie, in your wisdom, shall find moift capable; that your maiestie will vouchaif to grace ws with your residence amangis ws some tymes, and seclude ws frome no fauour your maiestie, in your royall prerogative, may gif ws, and wherof we shall rauder our selffis, by oure cairfull and loyall deserveng to prove worthy, we doubt not bot thay shall require at your maiesteis handis, that whiche

by this enforceit dealing thay wald appeir to refuse. Bot this and all other thingis, tending to the libertie and honnour of this your maiesteis antient kingdome, we remitt to your maiesteis moift rare and princelie wifdome, humelie requeifing your maiestie to tak in goode parte this our moift humble thankis, haueing nothing els to offer your maiestie for all your vndefervit fauouris, bot our moift loyall hairtis, whilkis fall nevir deborde frome the finallest of your maiesteis thoghtis. Thus humelie craving pardoun of oure presumption, we pray God to grant your maiestie, after a lang and happy reignn, eternall felicitie. Frome your maiesteis burgh of Edinburgh, the thrid of Marche 1607.\*

Your Maiesteis moift humble and obedyent  
feruitouris,

MONTROISS.

LOTHIANE.

DUNFERMELYN, CANCELL<sup>s</sup>.

J. BALMERINOKH.

A. L[ORD] WCHILTRIE.

ROXBURGHE.

ELPHINSTOUN.

BLANTYRE.

R. COKBURNE.

SIR R. MELUILL.

To the Kingis moift excellent Maiestie.

LVII.—THE EARL OF GLENCAIRN TO KING JAMES VI.

MARCH 4. 1607.

PLEISE 3OWR MOIST SACREID MAIESTIE,

According to 3owr maiesteis command, I submittitt the particular bluidis and contrawerfeis standing betwix the name of Mongowm-erej, me, and my name,† to feike freindis, as was schofin befoir 3owr

\* See Laing's History of Scotland. vol. iii. 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, as to the proposed union between England and Scotland.

† Balfour's Annals, vol. ii. p. 16.

maiesteis confaill, and the day appoyntitt be the confaill to conweene befoir thame to exceptt the famen, quhilke day we haif all keipitt, and the jugis exceptt, and ower clames on ather fyid was gifin in. Then rettitt the commoneris to agre on the owerisfman, quhilke thay wald nocht do, and fwa it is cummen in 5owr maiesteis handis, quhair of I am maift glayd, ewer expectting 5owr maiesteis moift gratiowfe fawour to me and myne, quha hes, and fall ewer carie maift ferwyabill hartis as we falbe commanditt. Gif thair fall cumme any reportis of me to 5owr majestie, I am fertane, according to 5owr maiesteis wuntitt and moift gratioufe custowme, I wilbe callitt to my awin accont;—I dowl nocht bott 5owr moift sacreid maiestie will fwa settill thatt turne, as heirefter thay be na cawiff of gruge on ather fyid, and that ewerilke ane of ws may joiffè ower awin kyndlye rowmes and poffessiounis in all tymes cummeing. This crectiowne of the Abessej of Kilwyneing, quhilke my Lord of Eglingtonne menis to fuite att 5owr maiestie, will nocht faill to intertenej the feid of trubill amangis ws, for we wilbe all enterest thairby; and I protest befoir 5owr maiestie, I haid rather loiffè my lyf, or ony occatiowne war gifin be me to breke that whitej quhilke 5owr maiestiej will command. I mau crawe 5owr maiesteis humbill pardowne for this my facheowfe lettir, and ewill wrytt. My moift humbill feruice presentitt to 5owr moift sacreid maiestie, I pray the Lord to gif 5owr maiestie gud hailthe, lang lyf, with ane proffeperowfe ryng, in the feir of the Lord; fwa I rest

5owr Maiesteis maift humbill and obedyent fubiectt,  
 ewer redej to be commanditt with all humbill  
 ferwice,

GLENCAIRNE.\*

Edinburgh, the fourtt of Merche 1607.

To his maift Sacreid Majestiej.

*James*

\* James, first Earl of Glencairn, a privy councillor, and one of the commissioners for a treaty of union between England and Scotland.

LVIII.—THE REVEREND PATRICK GALLOWAY TO KING JAMES VI.  
APRIL 7, 1607.

PLEAS YOUR GRATIOUS MAIESTYE,

This praesent is to giue your maieftye most hartlye thankis for all your maieftyes fauors towards me, speaciallye for the constant continuance of your maieftyes loue with me, as it vas vount, affuring your maieftye, you haue the man who neuer vas nor shall, God willing, be found alterable in his duetifull affection to serue your maieftye, as becomes him. If it fall out that I suspend my judgment in somethings is proponed to me aff hand, till I got fuller resolution both to speak and to stand honestlye to that vliche I speak, assuredlye it arryfes of no vnfound and altered affection toward your maieftyes seruice, bot onlye off laik of foreinforming, vliche geues light and curage to men to doe; and vherewith euer since I serued your maieftye I haue bene made pertaker als foone as others; and for the clearing of this point, I referre myself to my Lord of Dunbars testification, who can and will giue iust information to your maieftye of it. I heare that your maieftye is resolved to haue the ministree of Edinburghe complained, the estate vhereof is more miserable and desolat nor ony toun or kirk in Scotland, and vliche is vorse, the pulpittis ar sometymes possessed with yong people, and perfonen vnmeete for that place, vliche bringis the gofples and ministree into a contempt, and will ouerturne all in end if it be not remeadit. The planting of it will doe great good to all the countrey, and help to amend many thinges amisse, and procure great forderance of your maieftyes seruice and quyat of this kirk, provyding the perfonen be good teachers, peaceably disposed, and weyll affected. I heare also that your maieftye is some quhat moued to haue me placed there; bot, Ser, beleefe me, in truth I am not for it, in respect of many thinges in thame, and more in me, vliche can not concurre weyll to make vp a good mariage

betuix vs. I need not to vse many vordes with your maiestye, who knoues vs both alfuayll as our felfis doe. I mynd, God willing, to teache euery Sabboth, where euer I be, so long as I may, and to be readye in moit duetifull maner to concurre in your maiestyes seruice, as I falbe employed; bot to take on the charge of a particular flock, and such ane flock, my heart cannot yeeld, and I hope your maiestye fall not burdin me with it. The bearer hereoff, Mr Peter Heuat,\* is ane honest man, and your maiestye may reiofe in the planting of him, being ane of your maiestyes owne plantation there, and ansuring to your maiestyes expectation of him in all pointis, and can truely and sufficiently informe your maiestye of all particulars here; bot he is not, as he deserues, and as your maiestye appointed for his encouragement, ansured of his small pension assigned to him, vliche is pitie, and wald be helped to put difference betuix those that ar your maiesties owne men and others. If Mr Jhone Hall,† ane honest man, and ane of your maiestyes owne planting also, and he war removed, I wat not vhat fuld become of Edinburgh, your maiestyes cheefe toun her. Bot leafig those particulars, appardone me, Ser, to speak one word of the common cause. Ser, at Lightquho, my Lord of Dunbar did good seruice to your maiestye, and by God blissing his vyfe and canny forme of doing, he prevailed so as I neuer sawe ane more peaceable and ordourlye assemblie in my tyme, bothe in the progresse and end, as it vas, and therefor vas admired and praifed of all in publike

\* Author of a treatise entitled "Three excellent Points of Christian Doctrine. Edinburgh, 1621." He demitted the ministry about the year 1615.

† Mr John Hall continued in the ministry until 1619, when he craved to be "dismissed with the King's favour, in respect of his age and infirmitie of bodie, which he granted; yet he was not infirm, but he might have continued teaching, for there was no sensible decay found in his gifts. The truth is, he would not offend the King by not conforming, for fear of losing his pension; and on the other side, would have the godly belieav that he was averse from the latest novation. But they interpreted this forsaking of his station, after he had helped to set the house on fire, to proceed only from loue of ease, leasiness, and fear to lose some part of his reputation, when his gifts should begin to fail. So he left his ministry of Edinburgh without the people's consent, resting only upon the King's demission." Calderwood, 1678, folio, p. 723. These censures, coming from an opponent, are not entitled to much weight. The plea of age is overlooked, and infirmity partially admitted,—causes quite sufficient to account for Mr Hall's retirement.

fermones and priuat speaches. The hope of taking order with Papiftis, and quyating of diftractions amongst our felſis be conſtant moderators, led all menn ioyfullye your maiestyes vay, and if that courſe ſetled there be proſequute, your maiesty may aſſure your ſelf of pace here during our dayes, that is, if Papiftis can be kept vnder be your maiestyes authoritie foundlye vſed here, and the kirk cenſures be ſufferred to haue the awne place againſt thame, our pace will grow, ill tongues wilbe ſilenced, and all thinges will go calmely, to your maiestyes contentment. Your maiestyes glory hath bene, and is the profeſſing and manteaning of the goſple of Jeſus Chriſt, and all the world fees your maiestyes multiplied praefermentis and praeſeruaciones to arryſe of the praeſence of Jeſus, the Lord of this goſple, with you, and to tend to the praeſeruacion and aduancement of it by your maiestyes praeſeruacion and aduancement, tuo thinges inſeparably vnited, fence your maiesty hade being. Lat thame, therefor, be compted your enimes that will not conforme thame ſelſis to it, and God ſhall continue his bliſſing with your maiesty, and croune you with that incorruptible croune of glory in the end. So, moſt humblye taking my leeſe, I commend your maiesties perſone, familye, kingdome, and affairis, to the bliſſing of God. From Edinburgh, this 7 of Apryle 1607.

Your Maieſties awin moſt humble and  
affectionat ſeruitour,

MR P. GALLOUAY.\*

To his Maieſtie.

\* Patrick Galloway was originally minister of Perth, but was translated from thence to Edinburgh, where he exercised his ministerial functions till his death in 1624. He married Mary, daughter of the Rev. James Lawson, also minister at Edinburgh. His son, Sir James Galloway, was created Lord Dunkeld, 15th May 1645. In a letter from Bishop Sage to Mr John Guilan (Catalogues of Scottish Writers. Edin. 1833, 8vo) he says, "While at Aberdeen, 4 years agoe, I learned that Dr Urquhart there has some volumes of a MS. history of what passed in his time, by Mr Patrick Galloway, who was famous in King James the VI. minority and afterwards." P. 130.



## LIX.—THE LORD CHANCELLOR TO KING JAMES VI.

APRIL 9, 1607.

MOIST SACRED SOUERAYNE,

Your maiesties letter of the thrid of this instant, anent the comptrollaris intention to exact custome of the outwarde and inwarde commoditeis exchangeit betuix this, your maiesties kingdome, wes presentit to your heynes counsaill, and, conforme thairto, ane act past, discharginge the comptrollair and customaris of all forder melling in that mater. Your maiesties vther letter, anent the misbehaviour of the Maister of Gray towardis his fader, wes lykewayes presented and red in counsaill, and ane commissioun exped accordinglie to the Lord Haliruidhous; bot, in the meantyme, the Lord Gray, heiring quhat wes concludit be your maiesties counsaill in that mater, he directit his sone Robert with a letter to the counsaill, subferyved be himself, a number of his freyndis, and two ministeris, showing, that his petitioun, exhibited vnto your maiestie, procedit vpon euill information, and perswasion of some personis, who lyked not of concord and peace betuix him and his sone, and, that all thair differences wald be fetled and drestit with their awin freyndis, and, that your maiestie nor your counsell shold not be troubled thairwith, as be his letter, whiche your maiestie sall heirwith ressaue, may appeir; wheruppon the counsaill thought meit to forbeir all forder melling betuix thame.

Thair hes bene findrie dyettis betuix Mr James Home and the freyndis of the Laird of Mellestanes, anent the satling of that feid. Mr James feanis to be very penitent, and wald glaidlie imbrace freyndship, and mak satisfactioun and assythement, bot the Haitleyis pretendis mony excusis vpon the absence and minoritie of thair cheif, and, that diuers of thame being removeable tennentis to him, can not enter into that treaty by his advise. Efter diuers continwationis granted vnto thame, in end, this present day, a number of thame compeirit and produceit a letter, writtin to thame frome thair cheif, porporting, that he will only submitt that mater

to your sacred maiestie, and nane vtheris; and thay, as alſua his curatouris, who compeirit with thame, following his opinioun, maid the lyke anſuer, and, for thair pairtis, hes ſubmittit to your maiestie, wherupoun ane act of counſell is paſt, and nothing reſtis now bot Melleſtanes awne pairte to be perſyted, whilk wald be done thair be your maiesteis direction, and returnit bak heir to ſuche of your maiesteis counſell, whome your maiestie will mak choiſe of in that mater, wherein thay fall haif the concurrence of the whole counſell.\* The ſubmiſſioun betuix Eglington and Glencarne is caſſin in your maiesteis handis, as, by the proces of the counſallis dealing with thame, whiche the Erll of Dunbar will ſhaw vnto your maiestie, may appeir.

The Eſteatis of Flanderis being debtfull in diuers great ſowmes to vnquibile Capitayne Achiefoun, for his ſeruice in the wearis amang thame, and his bairnis finding a warr ſchip, pertening to the Eſteatis, lyand in the harbory of Leyth, awaiting vpon the tranſporte of the Lord of Bucheleugh, and ſome companyis lifted by him, thay cauſit arreift the ſaid ſhip. This mater ſeamit greuous to the whole eſtate of maircheandis, who hes ſa frequent a handling in theſe pairtis; and your maiesteis counſell haueing at lenth aduysit heirupoun, thay reſoluit, that, in reſpect this wes a mater of eſtate, wherein your maiestie hes intereſſe, the arreiftment ſould be lowſit; and thay humblie crave your maiesteis reſolutionn, incaife the lyke mater fall oute heirefter. And ſua, humelie craving pardoun of your ſacred maiestie for my lang letter, I pray God to bliſſe your maiestie with a lang and happy reigenn, and eternall felicitie. Frome your maiesteis burgh of Edinburgh, the nynt of Aprile 1607.

Your Maiesteis moift humble and obedyent  
ſubiect and ſeruitour,

AL. CANCELL<sup>r</sup>.

To the Kingis moift excellent Maieſtie.

\* "In May this yeere (1607), the deadly feid and inimitey betuix Hailley of Mellerſtanes and Honie of Eccles, by his maiesties eſpeciall command, was reconcilled by a comittee from the counſail table." Balfour's *Annals*, vol. ii. p. 21.

## LX.—LORD GRAY TO THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL.

APRIL 8, 1607.

MY LORDS,

Heiring that his maiestie hes fend ane letter to your lordships of his honorable pryuy confell quhilk I vret to his maiestie, with command to tak tryell of materis betuine me and my eldest sone, I thoct gude, so fchone as I hard of it, to derect my sone, Robert, in presence of sic our frinds as war heir for the tyme, quhais subscrptionis ar with myne, to lett your lordships knaw that I vrett that letter to his maiestie at that tyme being euill informit, be persuasioun of sum euill dispositiounis quha lykit nocht our agreement, and on thair informatioun, being transportit with coloir, the ordinar difese of eage, thinking that my eldest sone wald haiff vfit himself vtherways to me and my seruands nor he hes done: bot sen that letter was vrettin, we haiff satlit all our awin townis amangis ourselfis, and both I and hee ar content that giff ony questioun fall aris amangis ws heireftir, that our awin nearest friends fall judge it, without troubling his maiestie or your lordships of his honourable pryuy confell, as att lenth the berar will inform your lordships, so it fall nocht be neidfull ony be directit in commissioun from your lordships heir for that effect to me.

Your most lowing frend to command,

P. L[ORD] GRAY.\*

At Fowlis, the 8 of Apryle 1607.

Mr ROBERT RYND, minister at  
Langforgund, witnefs.  
Mr H. MORTOUN, minister at  
Fowlis, witnes.

JAMES OGILUY of Balfour.  
WM. GRAY off Bandirren.  
DAVID MAXUELL of Cullerny.  
JAMES MONORGOUND of that ilk.  
P. GRAY of Balgarno.  
R. GRAY.

\* Patrick, sixth Lord Gray, succeeded his father in 1582, and died in 1609. His eldest son was the celebrated Master of Gray.

## LXI.—THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE TO KING JAMES VI.

AUGUST 21, 1607.

MAIST SACRED SOUERANE,

Schortlie befor the entrie of our parliament, I reſtaued fra my Lord of Scoone, your ſacred majeſteis gracious letter, in a pairt teſtifeing baith your hienes good remembrance off my foirbears good ſervice, and your fauorable and benigne acceptatioun of my awin goodwill and endewore to employe ſic qualitie and giftes as God hes beſtowed on me, at your hienes devotioun and command, with greater accompt thairoff, nor ewer I can be hable to deferwe; and in a pairt remembering me off my dewtie in all reſpects and degreis.

As the firſt binds me in all dewtie to thankfull and cairfull ſervice to ſa thankfull, gracious, and ſa kyndlie a ſoveraene, ſwa does the ſecund remember me, the weyght and importance of the burding I vnderly in ſa honorable a charge, to ane ſa wyfe, grave, and weel ſeand prence, wha examinis and weyis all his ſubjects, and ſpecialie his officiars actiounes, baith in favour, wiſdome, equitie, and juſtice.

I proteſt befor God, that, nixt to that dewtie I aught to God for my faule, and haill being, your ſacred majeſteis honour, will and weell, is, and ſhall ewer be, my firſt intentionn, and principall butt off all my actiounes, whairto my haill induſtrie and ſtudie ſhall be directed in all ſinceritie and ernoſtneſs.

I will not be curious to purge me of all imputatiounes, whilk naa man, in ſic charges and ſic diſtance of plaices fra thair maiſters fight, can eſchew. I repoſe haillie on your hienes cleir perſpicacitie, heiche judgement, and conſtant zeal to juſtice, whilk I am certane will newer condemne me, in the ſmalleſt encline of your mynd, onhard and tryed, and in good tryall, I am ewer certane to preiwe my actiounes conforme to

your maist gracious hienes directiounes, to your will, plefour, and devotion; for that hes ewer bene, and fwa, Godwilling, fall continew, my cynofura and leidar starre, to follow and obey, in all humilitie, your preuncleie wifdome in all deliberatiounes and conclusiounes.

I doubt not, bot the progrefs and successe of all affairis in the parliament was signified vnto your sacred maiestie, at all tymes and occasiounes, be my Lord of Balmerinoche, secretaire.

In the midst of the parliament, we celebrat verie solemlie the 5 day off August, the day of your hienes blisset deliverie from Gowreis treasonable conspiracie, in the quhilk Mr Patrik Galloway\* maid the sermone, in the heiche kirk, werie weell to the purpose, and discharged his dewtie to your majestie werie honestlie, geving to the haill auditorie cleir evidendis off the cair God had off your hienes preferwatioun, for the speciall weell of his haill natioun; off your majesteis innocencie and good meaning; off the treacherous intentiouns and behaviour of the conspiratouris, whilk God turned all miraculousslie to thair confusioun, and to your majesteis (as his chofen serwants) weill, honour, and advancement; for his text was the 121 Psalme, whilk he applyed werie purpoisslie to this intent. This maist humblie taking my lewe, with earnest prayer to the Almightie for your hienes lang and happie regne, restis

Your sacred Maiesties maist humbil and  
obedient subiect and seruitour,

DUNFERMLYNE.

Dunfermelyne, 21 August 1607.

\* See a letter from him to King James, p. 108. He was father of Sir James Galloway, the first Lord Dunkeld, whose elevation to the peerage gave considerable offence from the obscurity of his family; and it was remarked, "That though the King could make him a lord, he could not make him a gentleman." His Lordship, if we may credit Wodrow, had the gift of prophecy, for that reverend gentleman has preserved in his collections some very unintelligible lines, which he designates as the predictions of Lord Dunkeld; adding, however, that "others ascribed them to Napier of Merchistoun." These wretched verses were some time ago privately printed in a volume termed "Nugæ Derelictæ."

## LXII.—LORD HOLYROODHOUSE TO KING JAMES VI.

August 25, 1607.

MOST GRACIOUS AND SACRED SOUERAIN,

As al your maiesties subiects in general has mor nor caus to prais and magnifie the bleffit nam of thair God, who, in al the tym of your maiesties most happie gouvernement, has had so many proofs of the innumerabl blissings and comforts vchich has accompaniit your maiesties sacred reign ; so I, who, befyds the deutie and aleagans of an comon subiect, stands so far debtour to your maiesties fauours, can not, without the imputation of the highest point of ingritud, bot vith al reuerens, and in most submissiu affection towards your sacred maiestie, akknauledg the fountain and origin of my vhol fortons to hau sprung from the ocean of your maiesties liberalitie : and as from my infancie you hau ben my vphalder, so nou, in the lait preferment vhervith I am honourit, although vnvorthie of such fauour, your maiestie has giuin as it var an neu creation, for the vchilk, fens natur has denyit means to prou vorthy of so many benefits, yet to suppli al thos defects of judgment, knowledg, and experiens, and fens I can not do vbat I vould, I shal euer be affectionat to do vbat I may, and to sacrifice my lyf, and al my fortons, in your maiesties seruie, and shal neuer ceas to pray for the continuans of an prosperus regn to your maiestie, and for euer to your royal progenie, and so shal rest

Your Maiesties humbl seruand,

HALYRUDHOUS.\*

The 25 of August 1607.

To the Kings most excellen Maiestie.

\* John Bothwell, first Lord Holyroodhouse, was the eldest son of Adam Bothwell, Bishop of Orkney, who married Queen Mary to James Hepburn, Earl of Bothwell. Upon the 2d July 1593, he was appointed an ordinary Lord of Council and Session, on the resignation of his father. He was subsequently made a peer of Parliament ; and this letter is one of thanks to James for the honour conferred on him. He died in November 1609.

## LXIII.—THE EARL OF ABERCORN TO KING JAMES VI.

AUGUST 26, 1607.

IT MAY PLEIS 3OUR MOIST SACRED MAIESTIE, .

Haueing reſlauid 3our hienes lettre about the 24 of Julij, commanding me to attend the ſynode of Clyddifdaill, the fourt of Auguſt, quhilk, being continewit to the 18 be reaſſone of the parliament, I did direct my particular lettres to everie preſbyterie, willing thame ſolemplic to keip the fyft of Auguſt with thair flokis, gifing thankis to God (as moiſt iuſtlic we haid all reaſſone, in memorie of ſua greit ane bliſſing, as God, in his mercie, did grant wnto ws all 3our maieties ſubiectis), by 3our hienes happie preſervatioun frome that abhominable and moiſt treaſonabill conſpiracie at Perth; quhilk thay moiſt willinglie obeyit. Alſo I cauſſit this hail countrey (ſpeciallie theſe quhome off I haid commandement off all eſtattis) mak fyreis of joy, with all wther lauchfull takynnis off glaidnes. The 18 day, accoirding to 3our maieties directioun, I did keip the ſynode convenit at Glaſgw, and requyreit thame, accoirding to the act at Linlythgw\* (quhilk I produceit and cauſſit reid wnto thame), that thay wald admit the archebiſchope of Glaſgw thair moderator, quhairinto, in the beginning, thay maid greit oppoſitioun, allegeing the act noch to haue bene concludit in forme, as was thair gifin out, and that the moderatouris of preſbytereis wer aggreit vpoun, to continew for a tyme in the perfounes of thame that wer thair nominat, bot that of the moderatioun of ſynoddis nothing haid bene ſpokin. Quhairunto I repleit, that to be ane accuſatioun of honeſt men, namelie, the moderator and clerk of the aſſemblic, under quhais handis the ſame wes extractit, quhilk being verefeit, wald mak thame infamous, and put thair lyſis in 3our maiesteis handis. Thairfoir, giff onie wald directlie allege it to be fals, and tak

\* See Spottiswoode's History of the Church of Scotland. London, 1677. Folio, pp. 500, 501, 502.

upone him the improbatioun of the fame, I wald, according to my place and power grantit to me be your maiestie, mak thame fast, untill thay maid guide thair perfute and allegiance; quhairupoun thay fell frome the said challenge, and defyreit a continewatioune of materis to sum schort dyet, that thaj myght be advysit quhat to do: bot I denyit onie sic pouer to be gevin me be your maiestie; and that I wald nocht go ane poyut beyond my directiounes. So as, in end, fynding thame felffis straittit with a present aunfuer, and haveing signifeit to thame quhat command I haid for denunceing thame rebellis, and dissolving the synode incais of disobedienc, thay put foure of thair number vpoun the lyttis, and the archebyfchope being removit by him felff, the questioun was movit quidder thaj wald accept him according to your maiesteis desyre, or proceid to the electioun of ane of thair awin lyttis, as thaj haid bene accustomeit? The haill synode (tua onelie exceptit) voittit to his acceptatioun. The tua wer Maister William Simfoun, minister at Dumbarton, and Maister Edward Bryce, minister at Drymmen. Maister William Simpfoun departit frome the assemblie quhen he saw the admissioun to proceid, with thir wordis, "That he wald nocht remaine in assemblie that wes moderatit be ane bischop," and went away without returning. This endit, and the archebyfchope haueing acceptit the moderatioun of the synode, chois wes maid of tua of thair number to keipe the colloque at Halyruidhous, the first of September, namelie, Maister Johnne Hay, and Maister William Birney.\* Inquirie was also maid of the diligence of the presbyteries in

\* Mr William Birnie was born at Edinburgh, 1563. He was of the ancient family of Birnie of that ilk, and was originally brought up as a merchant; but, having suffered considerable losses at sea, he resolved to turn his thoughts to the ministry, "and for that end went to Leiden, where he continued thrie years, applyeing himself to the studie of divinity, and, from thence returning to his native country, was admitted minister at Lanark by a letter of presentation from King James VI., dated at Edinburgh, the 28th December 1597." *Memoirs of Family of Birnie*, MS. in possession of Editor. He died 1619, in the fifty-sixth year of his age. His biographer gives the following curious notice of him:—"Att his coming here, there were senerall feids among his parishioners, as in other places at that tyme, and frequentlie the quarrels began soon after sermons on the Sunday; but as he was a great peace-maker, so he was a stout man, and upon his appearance with sword in hand, he had the happiness, by his authority, to dissipate the contending parties without manslaughter, and, for the most part, without blood." He was the author of a singular work, called "The Blame of Kirk Burial." Edin. 1606, 4to, of which a beautiful reprint, with preface by W.B.D.D. Turnbull, Esq., Advocate, appeared in 1833, 4to. He also wrote "A Tractat of



the perfewing of Papiftis, accoirding to your hienes ordinance ; and quhat remainnit in thair cenfureis amangis thame felfis, and wtheris thair affairis, wes, with greit calmenes, and ane univverfall lykeing of all that number, fo handillit, that the moift ferupulous amangeft thame wer verie weill fa-tiffeit, and na aſſemblic this lang tyme keippit in better ordour, to all thair contentmentis, and that ſpeciallic be the archebyſchop, then mode-rator, his prudent and grave government ; ſwa that, heirefter, I hoipe, quhair thair falbe fuche eſtabliſhed to rewl and moderat under your maieſtie, your hienes in all tymes heirefter ſhall nocht haue neceſſitie of commiſſionaris, bot raipe the fruite of your maieſteis langſum travellis. I pray God furniſhe to your maieſtie monylyke to him, haveing equall know-lege, with no les affectionne. As for my ſelf, it hes ſua pleiſit God (nocht-withſtanding of my waiknes) to blis your maieſteis litle ſervices at all tymes committed by your hienes to my charge, that it hes emboldnit me to offer myſelf of new with no les affection nor onie your maieſteis ſubiect, to quhatſumever ſervice I ſhalbe habill to diſcharge, beleifing thair ſalbe found verie few or nane to withſtand your maieſteis commandementis, that ar euer ſeine to be godlie and moſt reaſonabill. It may pleis your maieſtie to pardone me, iff I do ſeme over prolix to your hienes in this lettre, the deſyre I haue to giſſ compt of all, conforme to the trewth, is my beſt excuſ. I haue alſo heirwith ſent to your hienes the extraet of the aet. Thus, beging at God to your maieſtie lang dayeis, with increſ of all hapines, and full accompliſhement to your hienes greattelt contentment of all your graces moſt princelie deſignes, I remaine for ever

Your Maieſteis moſt humbill, obedient, and  
affectionat ſubiect and ſervitoure,

ABERCORNE.\*

Blakiltoun, the 26 of Auguſt 1607.

To his moſt Sacred Maieſtie.

Chronologie," which he dedicated and preſented to King James VI. This work, which does not ſeem to have been printed, was preſerved in MS. in the Broomhill Library.

\* James, firſt Earl of Abercorn. He died March 16, 1617.

## LXIV.—THE FARMERS GENERAL OF THE CUSTOMS TO KING JAMES VI.

PLEIS 3OUR MAIESTIE,

Our dewtye as subiectis, our desyr to be 3our fervantis, and our intentioun to augement the renew of the twun, the finalnes quhair- of is a reprooiche to the kingdome, mouit ws not out off necessitie, since none bott those who ar of abilitie and credeit could vndertak sik a worke, wpon a motioun maid wnto ws by the ryght reuerend father in God, our very guid Lord, the Airchebischepe of Glasgou, to mak this offer off greater payement, to the valew off xxxviii merkis a 3eir, then was formerlie payet wnto 3our maiestie; none could in schaw dislyk our guid meaning, muche applauding was maid to it, and maney offers of guid assistance; wherupone we did vndertak, and hes fund suirties, and aduancid some of our payement beiffoir hand, being villing till continew gif we could find that patrociney in this actioun, quhilk 3our maiesteis awin affaires off reasone fould haue, quhair of we wer fully assured, so long as we had that most honorabill noble man, the Earle of Dumbar, 3our maiesteis moft worthie trew servant, in the cuntrey. Bot otheris being now disapoyntid of that 3eirlye gaine quhilk thaj haue off maney 3eiris inioyed, wisshing itt fould rather haue fallin still in thair owen purses than come to 3our maiesteis cofferis, dois omitt no maner of way, whereby thay may veirrye ws off the chairdge, that so by this affront quhilk falbe gevin wnto ws, all vtheris may be affrayed to serue 3our maiestie heirefter, or advance 3our profit in any foirt: our onlye desyr is, to haue the covenantis and articles of the contrake maid betuix 3our maiestie and ws to be keipit, and the impedimentis removed; quhairin, first, we do humblie intreat, that all contraversies concernyng our customes may be refferred to the Judicatorie of the Exchecher, quhilk was the only competent judgment for suche maters untill the lait bred confusioun betuix the sessioun,

and it did suppress the Exchequer altogether. It is conditionet by the contrak, that no new exactioun nor impositioun shalbe impositit vpon the subiectis to the preiudice or hinder to the tread of merchandice, and now, by this last grant off four pundis off every tun, within Edinburgh and iurisdixioun thair of, thair is ane direct breache of that article; and within few yeires your maiestie will find the great hairme that fall inew thair of. By one contrak, we haue the grant to be only searchers during our tak; we desyr that conditioun to be performit; and in so far as Barnard Lyndsay wald now acclayme ane auld lyferent gift of searcheary itt is so frivolous ane pretent, quhen he himself hes, since the daitt of itt, exceptit voluntarlie tua temporary takis of the samyn, on efter another, as it dois manifestlye schew quhat be the intentionis off sum men quha vald countenance siche ane vnrefonable demand, quiche we do nocht respect so muche for ony benefeit that he can acquir be retennyng off it, quhilk we do nocht inuy, as we do justlie feir off the hinderance he may gif to the tred, for the evill will of ws quha hes takin the customes over his heid, he formerlye being fermour: And this office of searchearye being institut only for the behove off the customer, and no vayes to be a croice vnto him and the hynderance of your maiesties benefeit, as in this caice it will no doubt procur, fould be healillye refferit vnto vs, or vtherwayes this wilbe the last yeir that ony will tak it in ferme. Sum bruches off regalitty, pretending thair exemptage frome payeing of any custome, siche as Dumfermeling, Churchaldye, and Mussilbruche, fall schoirtlye become the staple of all wairis in your kingdome, and your maiestie fall loise the profite of your haill customs, being ane grit part of your hienes renew, the beginnyng of quiche canker we do alreddy feill, and in our deuttie to your maiestie, can nocht omitt till certiffie your hienes thair off, that thay may be in tyme dischairdgit. Entreitting, thairfoir, humblye, your maiestie to aduert to thois things, quiche, howeuer thay may at the present hairme vs in sum soirt for our forwardnes in your seruice, and villingnes till augment your profite, zitt will it be schoirt of that preiudeice, quiche your maiestie fall refave thairbye heirefter; and, haifing fend thois tua off our number, to explain at more lenth to your maiestie, the hard crosses, and maniefolde impedimentis we refflaue in

your seruice, we, in all humilitie, according to our bounden deuty, do pray for all happines to your hienes, and restis

Your Maiesties moit humbill fervantis and subiectis,

THE FERMOURIS OF YOUR MAIESTIES  
CUSTOMES OF SCOTLAND.

To his moit excellent Maiestie.

LXV.—THE MARQUIS OF HUNTLY TO KING JAMES VI.

FEBRUARY 6, [1608?]

PLEIS YOUR MOST EXCELLENT, MOST MIGHTIE, AND  
IMPERIALL MAIESTIE,

Being this far on my journey, of intention to haue presentit my sone\* unto your most mightie maiestie, and onderstanding be the Erle of Dunbar, that it is your most excellent maiesties pleafour, that I suld stay myself till efter the parlement, I mynd euer till conforme myself to your most mightie maiestis will and direction, althocht my greatest desyr be to haue that honour, as to kis your most mightie maiestis hand; and feing that it is your most excellent maiestis pleafour that I suld stay heir for ane tyme, the Erle of Dunbar hes schauin me that fauour, as to be his prefenter in my absens, and I uis at God, that his seruice may be agreable unto your most mightie maiestie, as I dout not of his affectioun,

\* George, the second Marquis, who, for his loyalty to the unfortunate Charles, of whose cause he had been an uncompromising supporter, was, on the 16th March 1649, tried, condemned, and on the 22d beheaded.

hauing more honour than he meritis, to be sua neir of bluid unto your most excellent maieftie; and for my auin pairt, I haid that honour as to be presentit be his guideher unto your most michtie maieftie, being ane youth as he is nou, and God forbid that my affectioun or loyaltie fuld fail nou in my auld dayis, to your most excellent maieftie, of quhois constant affection I haue fund sua monie fauours, that all the blood within me being uairit in your most michtie maieftis feruis, can not corefpond.\* The Erlle of Dunbar, I hoip, will informe your most excellent maieftie mair ampie of my pairt and meining, quhomwith I haue conferrit at lenh this day, and fering to be tedious, eftir the kissing maist humble of your most michtie maieftis hand, I will ever rest

Your most excellent, most michtie, and imperiall  
Maieftis humble subiect, and maist affectionat  
feruitour to the deith,

HUNTLYE.

At Edinbruch, this faxt of Februar [1608?]<sup>†</sup>

To the Kingis most sacred Maieftie.

\* "After the King was settled on the throne of Great Britain, he governed his kingdom so prudently, that he kept them peaceable so long as he liued. The Marquis of Huntly was several times called by him to London to consult about Scottish affairs; and the last time he was called, being come to his presence, he desired his son, Charles Prince of Wales, to take Huntly by the hand as the most faithful subject (said he) that ever served a Prince, assuring him that so long as he should cherish and keep Huntly on his side, he needed not be very apprehensive of great danger from seditious and turbulent heads in Scotland."—The Pourtrait of True Loyalty, exposed in the Family of Gordon. MS. Advocates' Library, p. 417.

† This letter has no date; as it mentions, however, the Earl of Dunbar, it must have been written subsequent to the 3d of July 1605 (though placed by Balfour amongst the letters of that year), when George Home, Lord Home of Berwick in England, was elevated to a Scottish Earldom. The Earl of Dunbar died 29th January 1611. In Balfour's Annals the Marquis is said to have sent his son to court, as commanded by the King's letters of the 15th February.

## LXVI.—THE MARQUIS OF HUNTLY TO KING JAMES VI.

FEBRUARY 26, [1608?]

PLEIS YOUR MOST SACRED MAIESTIE,

Onderstanding be my good-brother, the Duk of Lennox, that it is your sacred maiestis plefour and uill, that I fuld fend my sone\* unto your sacred maiestie, and albeit he be the gretest pairt of the confort quhilk I haue nou during my uarding, zit I will euer prefer your sacred maiestis plefour and uill, till onie of my auin contentments, hoping that your sacred maiestie will not be forgetfull of my auld affectionat seruice, nor zit will lat me be unfit with sik rigour as the Puritins of this contrey intendis; for I protest befor the liuing God, that I carie that affection unto your sacred maiestie, that I will hazard my lyfe and my blood in your sacred maiesties seruice, athaer within your sacred maiestis dominions, or aganis onie foraner whatfumeuir. And seing in this I prooffe ane deutilful and affectionat subiect, I hoip your sacred maiestie will not condiscend to my uraik, quhom it hes plesit of your sacred maiesties fauour to mak up, onlie for refusing to fueir that all is true that it plesis the Puritins of this contrey to affirme. Bot feiring to be tedious, I haue impairtid the haill particulars of my affairs to this berar, be him to be declarit unto your sacred maiestie at greter lenth. Sua, humblie taking my leive, eftir the kissing of your sacred maiestis hand, I will pray the eternall God euer to preferue your most sacred maiestie in lang lyf and most prosperous reнге.

Your most sacred Maieftis humbill subiect,  
and most affectionat seruitour to the  
deith,

HUNTLYE.

At Stirling Castell, this 26 of Februar [1608?]

To the Kings most sacred Maieftie.

\* See Gordon's History of the Family of Gordon, vol. ii. p. 109. Edin. 1727. Balfour's Annals, vol. ii. p. 20. Edin. 1824. Svo.

## LXVII.—THE MARQUIS OF HAMILTON\* TO KING JAMES VI.

MARCH 1, 1608.

MOST SACRED SOUERANE,

Your maiestie hauing, without any merit upone my pairt, bot upone your maiesties gracious remembrance of the faithfule devtie and seruice of my fathir and grandfathir, don to your maiestie, and the queen your maiesties mother, with the graet lofs, not onlie of thair freinis lyuis, bot thair auin blud, banefment from thair cuntrie, ouerthrau of thair houfis, and hail fortunis, bontfullie grantit to me the erectioun of Arbroith, according to the infestment of the same giuen of befoir be your hienes to my fathir vnder the Great Seill, and be your maiesties letter vrittin with your royall hand, I thocht, and euer fall think, myself bund to your maiestie, beyond al thie subiectis of this kingdome, amoinst quhom, nane hes resleit so great fauor without any desert of thair auin; and as this benefeit flouis frome your maiesties only guidnes, so uil I euer affuir my self, that your maiesties fauor will be unchangabill, sa lang as maist humil deutie and seruice fall not fail in me; vhairof being giltles in my hairt, quhilk hes constantly auout rather to die, nor to giue entrie to any undeutifull thocht, I hop your maiestie vil graciousslie be plefd, without offence, to permit me to regraet, that it is heir gifun out, that your maiestie fould haue comandit my infestment to be stayit unexped, till the Laird of Pamuir† and sum otheris obtain satisfactioun, in sik futtis as thay

\* James, second Marquis of Hamilton. Created Earl of Cambridge in England, 16th June 1619; installed a Knight of the Garter, 7th July 1623; and died at Whitehall, 2d March 1625, in the 36th year of his age.

† Patrick Maule of Panmure. Created by Charles I. Earl of Panmure, Lord Maule of Brechin and Navar, 3d August 1646.

mak to my difgrace and preiudice, becaus thay informit your maieftie, that I refpect not as becumis me your maiefties benefite, quhan I refus to giue tham ane fether of the guife whilk your maieftie hes fo graciouſlie giuin me: vheras, if that quhilk is crauit ver bot ane fether, it ver great madnes in me to mak any ceremonie in granting, bote your maieftie hauing ordanit the miniſteris to haue thair local ſtipendis, and ane blanche deutie to be modifiet to be pyed to your maieftie, that liuing uald thairby be reducit to ſuch eſtate, as uil hardly furnice me mentinance in the rank vhairuith your maieftie hes bein pleſit to honour the hous, quhilk for the preſent, I unuortbelie poſſes; and gif that refpect maid me, not ſumquhat careful of meanis to liue in that rank, I ſould rather trail ane pik in the fardeſt pairt in the vordil, nor contend vith the meaneſt that could be habil to purchas your maiefties recommendatioun; bot nou hauing meikil ado, and my eſtait being graetlier burdenit nor it may veil bear, I houp and humlie deſyre, that your maieftie, at this tyme, vald continou your moſt gracious fauour towardis me, and ſuffer that benefiet to be affectual, the grant quhairof procedeis of your maiefties royal bounti, and gracious opinioun of the merit and ſeruice of my predeceſſors befor I vas borne, quhom I fall ſtryue to equal, and, gif it ver poſſeibel, to exceid in al faithful, humil, conſtant, euerieuey deuotiful ſeruice to your maieftie. And at Sanioniftoun, I ſatiſfiet the Laird of Pamuir in ſecuriti of his auin teindis, according to the command of your maiefties letter, than fend for that effect; ſua, quhan tyme and your maiefties gracious fauour fall mend my means and eſtait, your maieftie fall diſpois upon quhat farder your maieftie ſal than find that I can poſſeible do, without my utir ruynd, quhilk I knau aſſuritly your maieftie vil preuent in your infinit gudnes, the gracious effectis vhairof alreddie reſſeuit, geuis me aſſurance that your maieftie vil accept in guid pairt, ane treu declaration of the verie eſtait of that hail mater be my brother Sir Johne Hamiltoun, whom I haue expreſſie directit for that purpois. Hoping your maieftie vil graciouſlie heir and credit him, and be hime returne that ſignificatioun of your maiefties gracious and princelie vil, quhilk may mak your maiefties former benefite effectual to me, and me abil to ſerue your maieftie in the rank of my predeceſſuris, as I fall be villing, vith



maist faithful and reddie affection to bittou that, and al the rest that God hes giuen me with my blude, lyf, and freins in your maiesties seruice, according to thair commendabil exempilis, vhairof I fal be moir glad to giue prouif nor promeis, and fal daylie defyr the occasioun to perform the fame, with als guid hairt as ernistly I besek God to grant your sacred maiestie long lyfe, perfyt helth, hapie regne, and most blisfit contentment.

Your Maiesties most humbill and  
faithful seruant,

HAMILTON.

Hamiltoun, first Marche [1608?]\*

The King his most sacred Maiestie.

LXVIII.—THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE TO KING JAMES VI.

MARCH 5, 1608.

MAIST SACRED SOVERANE,

I tak the occasioun and bauldnes to writte this vnto your hienes, in anfuere off that it pleased your sacred maiestie writte to me the secund of Februar, directing me to deall with my nepvieu, the Erle of Abercorne, that he sould desist from onye farder insisting in suite of the

\* The year is not given, and Balfour has placed the letter amongst those of 1606; but as it appears that the Marquis obtained a charter of the lands, patronage, and titles belonging to the Abbey of Aberbrothock, 5th May 1608, it was probably written in the month of March of that year.

Laird of Achindraynis\* forfaulter, and renunce all benefite and promeis he had of your maiestie for the same, I could naa better trawell with him in that nor be communicatting your gracious mynd to him, be the sicht off your hienes awin letter, whairtoe I hope he hes fend your maiestie ane anfuere, whilk will sufficientlie satisfie your princelie intentioun in this purpose. This I can testifie vnto your maiestie of certantie, that whafoewir hes informed your hienes, that the said Erle off Abercorne delt, or wald onye wayes be persuadit to deall, for onye favour or owirfight to the said Laird of Auchindrayne, hes sayde far bye the treuthe, or onye thing hes ewir bene in his mynde. He hes indeed some freindschipt with the hous of Bargenie, whomtoe Achindrayne hes bene this lang tyme a dependar; bott as the hous off Bargenie findis that the said Achindraynis practises was the wrack of the last Laird off Barganye, swa haiff thay be experience off laitt tryed, that he was be all possible meanes working to ondoe that house, and, thairfoir, hes haillie cassin him off. And this, I assure your maiestie, that it was be thair speciall moyane, diligence, and industrie, with the assistance of the Erle off Abercorne, that baithe this last treasonable murthour of his, is brocht to the light it is cummed to, and also his foirknaledge, privitie, and persuasioun to the young man, Thomas of Bargenie, for the foull murthour of the tutour of Cassills: and without thair doing and infisting, the same will be hardlie yitt brocht to perfectioun and dew outredde in tryall and punischement.

I know Achindrayne hes be manye meanes focht to purchefs my Lord Abercornes goodwill, or at least to lay him bye his perwitt, and for that hes caussed offer him mair nor he can ewer haiff of the benefite off his parsuitte. Bot he hes newir gevin anye ear to sic propositioun, regarding ewer mair your hienes prencelie intentioun in the profecutioun of justice and pwnischement off sua wylde a fact, and the dewtie off his plaice and estaitt, nor anye commoditie: And this I hope your maiestie shall find be prooffe to be the veritye and be his actioun, in regaird whereoff he is persuadit certanlie, that for naa vrang nor ontrew rapport off anye sic subjects, your hienes will alter or claynge your formar prencelie word.

\* See note to Letter from Lord Balmerino, page 132.

grant and benefite, whereoff yieur hienes than thocht him worthie, for he esleymys that war a greater difgraice to him, nor all the mater is awaill. This I remitt alwayes to yieur majesties heiche wifdome and good refolution, for it may be that schortlie the event may prove the Erle of Abercorne to be the Laird off Achindraynis speciall parfear, and onlie owir-thraw onder yieur maiesties authoritie and lawis, whilk will manifest the ontrenthe off that yieur hienes hes bene informed off. Swa, taking my leive, with the maift humbill kisse off yieur royall hand, restis for ewir

Yiour sacred Maiesties maift humbill and  
affectionat subjeet and feruitour,

DUNFERMLYNE.

Edinburgh, 5 Marche 1608.

To the King his maift excellent Majestie.

LXIX.—THE LAIRD OF LUSS TO KING JAMES VI.

APRIL 23, 1608.

PLEAS 3OWR MOST SACRED MAIESTIE,

I have beine wrgit be the counfell to submitt with the McFarlanes my brothers slauchter, and all wther slauchteris, muirtheris, hairschippis, theftis, reiffis, and oppressiounis, raising of fyre, demolifching of howfis, ewitting and destroying of woods and plaining, committit be thame against me; quhilk submissioun is now become in 3owr ma-

iefteis hands.\* And being informit that my Lord of Mar is to infist with 3our maieftie to pronounce ane decreit not onlie upon criminall actionis, bot also wpon the ciuill actionis, quhair of I hawe obteneit decreitis alreadie befor the Lordis of Seffion, extending to the fowme of lxxij thowfand poindis money of Northe Britane, I will maift humbillie befeik 3our maieftie to referwe my decreitis alreadie obteneit; and quhat fatiffaetioun 3our maieftie pleases to decerne to me for the criminall actionis, I mane hald me content thairwith, gife it be 3our maiefteijs will, that rebelles to 3our maieftie refawe that benefit, for they ar oft and diuers tymis at the horne for all the crymis abowewrytine, and findrie vther crymis not mentionat, wrelexit as yet. Requeifting 3our maieftie to tak in gwid pairt this my humbill fwit, hawing nothing els to offer 3our heynes, for all 3our wnderferwit fawouris, bot my moft loyall hart, quhilk fall newer deword from the fmallest of 3our maieftijs thochtis. This, humbillie craifeing pardoune of this my prefumptioun, I pray God grant 3our maieftie, efter ane lang and happie regne, eternall felicitie.

3our Maieftijs moft humbille and loyallie  
affectit fubiect and ferwand,

ALEXANDER COLQUHOUN  
off Lufs.

Rofdo, the xxijj day of Apryll 1608.

To the Kingis moft excellent Maieftie.

\* " The olde feids of blood and slaughter, betuix the Laird of Lusse and the Macfarlans, was in this month (April), by the counsaills mediatioun, absolutely submitted to the Kings maiesties determination. The Macfarlans had killed the Laird of Lusses brother, with maney of his friends and followers: casten doune some of his housses, cuttit his woodes, spoyled his landes and tenants, for which he had obtained decreitts agaiunst them for grate sommes of money, and had declared them rebells by law." Balfour's Annals, vol. ii. p. 25.

## LXX.—LORD BALMERINO TO KING JAMES VI.

MAY 1608.

PLEAS YOUR MOST SACRED MAIESTIE,

I refaived your maiestes lettre of the 12 of May the 17, at eight a clok at nicht. The fame morning, Sir Alexander Drummond's prefentatioun was gevin in to the fesslioun, who, with the other tuay competitouris, being called in, and thay refusing to go to tryell, but willingly yealding to his preferment, his tryell was appoynted him, conforme to your maiesteis act. And for your maiesteis resolutioun anent his religioun, I haif fend heirwith, the testinioniall of his ordinar pastour, whair he hes made his residence thir thre yearis, and of the minister of Abercome, whair he remainit befor, evir fen he had any duelling. So, I lave to your maiestes most princely confideratioun, out of what malice, ather aganes me or him, this inventioun hes growin: always his admissioun fall stay, whill it pleis your maiesty to certify your gratioun plesur, protesting befor the greit God of heavin, that nather blood nor acquaintance, but knowlege of his ability and inclinatioun to ferve, and what neid your maiesty standis in heir of worthy ministeris, did move me both to trayne him wp for your service, and finding him capable, to fute his preferments. So, hooping in your maiestes accustomed favour, that my affectioun to your service fall not be turned to my disgrace, and craving pardone of this boldnes, I with your most sacred maiesty, after a lang and prosperous raygne, eternell felicity.

Your Maiestes most humble and most  
obedient fervand,

J. BALMERINOCHE.\*

\* This letter has no date, but the reference to Sir Alexander Drummond, who was appointed a Judge of the Court of Session, and took the title of Medhope, proves it to have been written in May 1608. Lord Medhope died in July 1619. See Melros Papers, p. 335.

The Erl of Abercorne hes taken Achindrane,\* a most vyill murtherar, partly to kyith his affectioun to your maieftis service, and to stop thair mouthes who calumniat him; and he wald be encouraged by renewing your gracious favour, promefit to him befor, and he will not fail to do bettir service.

To the Kingis most excellent Maieftie.

LXXI.—THE EARL OF ANGUS TO KING JAMES VI.  
MAY 25, 1608.

SIR,—PLEIS 3OUR SACRED MAIESTIE,

It is nocht possible, be lettre, to expres the greiff of mynd quhilk justlie I haue conceawed, quhan be the counfall I wes laitlie informit of 3our maiesties discontentment aganis me, proceeding, I dont, no thing of 3our maiestes princlie and courtes inclinatioun, quhairof I haue had fo mony and dyweris experiences, bot of sum sinister informatioun of vnfreindis, as giff vudewtefullie I had behait my felff, ather towardis 3our maiestie, the ministrie, or in contempt of 3our hienes lawes or commandementis, quhilk I haue ewer reuerencit, and salbe to me in heicheft commendatioun. For, Sir, it is ane greit regrait to me, that I may nocht pleid my innocencie in 3our maiestes prefens, becaus than I wald nocht feir, but it fould cleirly appeir, and my reuerend respect and obe-

\* The atrocious murders to which this person was accessory form the subject of a Drama by Sir Walter Scott, entitled "Auchindrane, or the Ayrshire Tragedy," and the reader will find in the preface a most interesting abridgment of the chief particulars, Poetical Works, vol. xii. (last edition), 12mo, p. 243. The trial that followed (with various illustrative papers) is given by Mr Pitcairn in his valuable Criminal Trials, vol. iii. 124. Some additional and hitherto unpublished particulars occur subsequently in this volume.

dience to your maiesties last commandementis be manifestit, quhilk, faneing your maiesties plesour, wes sumquhat hard (all thingis being reichthlie confidderit). Gitt, gif ather bischop or minister can iustlie accense me of the brek of any poynt of dewetie to thame, I am content to be tryit and punisshit accordinglie; bot be the contrar, gif I haue, with all obedience, obeyit and satisfieit the preceifist of thame, I think thay sould nocht haue sa maliceoullie traducit me to your maiestie, in complening quhair thay haue na caus of complaint. Bot fence no thing I can do can content sum of thame, I most, with all humilitie and reuerence, intreit your hienes nocht to credeitt all thair reportis of me, without ane mair particular tryall. And in this laitt chairge, quhairby your maiestie hes ordanit me to be wairdit in Glasgow, I am most humble to requyre your maiestie, inrespekt of the greit indispositioun of my bodie, tending to deathe, as the principall doctouris of medeceane in this cuntrie, be thair testimoniall vnder thair handis, testefeit to your maiestie, as thai haue alreddie done to the counfall, to be that gracious to me, that, gif I falbe wairdit, it may ather be in Thomptalloun, Edinburgh, or Leith, quhair I may haue the help and assistance of phisitianis for my feiknes, than in Glasgow, quhilk is ane place verie vnmeit for me, for fondrie respectis, but speciallie for recowerie of my helthe: or gif it fall pleis your maieste, that I may haue your hienes fauour to pairt frome this cuntrie for ane quheill, for the better preferuatioun of my helthe, I will accept of the same as ane singular benefeit, for sic serices as I haue done to your maiestie in tymes bypast. And this, in all humilitie and reuerence, kifs your maiesties princle hand, I humble tak my leiff.

Your Maiestes most humble and  
faithfull subiect,

ERLL OF ANGUS.

Cannogaith, the 25 May 1608.

To his most sacreid Maiestie.

## LXXII.—THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE BURGHS TO KING JAMES VI.

JULY 8, 1608.

OUR MAIST GRATIOUS AND SOUERANE LORD,

We receauet your maiesties lettre direct unto ws, with your maiesties counfallour, Sir Robert Danielstoun, knicht, conferuatour of your maiesties subiects of Scotland in the Law Countries, daittit at Greinwiche, the xv of Junij last; be the quhilk, we wnderstand that your maiestie is informet of sum preposterous cheritabill supplie, gevin be sum merchantis trading in the Law Cuntries to the baneist minifters, with the quhilk your maiestie is discontent, and thairfor willing ws to restraine that wndewtifull impertinent supplie. Your maiestie hes also willit ws to mak na choise of ane minifter, to serue the natioun at the Campher, without your maiesties knowledge and approbatioun, and siclyk that we fould ratifie the former actis, for establisching the stapill of the natioun at the Campher. And last, that we fould respect the bearer, quhome your maiestie hes fund trustie in your seruice. Plais your maiestie as to the first, everie ane of ws heir present hes gevin his declaratioun, that he knaws of na kynd of supplie gevin to thais baneist minifters, and we haue ordanit, that all the magistratis within your maiesties burghes fould, be your maiesties autoritie, inhibit and dischaarge all sic supplies in tyme cumming, and that ilk commissioner fould intymy the samyn to his magistrattis, and caus thame tak heid thairto, and punefich the offenders sua oft as thay can be knawin. And as to the minifter at the Campher, we haue determinat and agriet, that nane falbe plaicet thair bot be your maiesties consent and approbatioun; and as to the stapill at the Campher and conferuatour, we haue tane sic ordour thairwith, as your maiestie hes defyrit. Forder, my Lord Conferuatour hes schawin that your maiestie hes declairit wnto him the caldnes of the burrowis, in not complaining to your maiestie vpoun the frequent reforting of Papistis and



Jefuittis within this realme. We ar greatlie bund to thank your maiestie, that hes sic remembrance and zeall of religioun, as to steir and waikin ws vp to the doing of our dewties; and thairfoir, be the graice of God, expecting your maiesties help and concurrence, we salbe mair cairfull to effectnat that pairt of our dewties to our power. And we ar this bauld to requyr your maiesties authoritie, with the mair schairp and speidie executioun; and thairfoir, we pray your maiestie maist humble to hald hand thairto, and to vrge the remanent magiftrattis of the realme to ane mair vigilant cair in dischairging the dewties of thair offices in that behalf, quhilk we dout not but ye will do. We also ar this humelie to pray you, that ane warrand may be direct to the post maisters betuix Londoun and Edinburght, to tak the merchant pakkat, to be faillie delyuerit, as your maiestie hes grantit to the Flemyngis, quhilk wilbe ane great farderance to the negotiatioun of your maiesties subiectis of Scotland: to the quhilk office of refait and delyuerie of pakattis, we think your maiesties subiect, James Bannatyne, resident at Londoun, maist apt and qualifiet. And sua, praying the Lord to multiple your maiesties dayis with ws, in ane happie government, we committ your maiestie to his mercifull protectioun. Frome Selkirk, this aucht day of Julij 1608.

Your maist humble and obedient subiectis, the  
 Commillioners of your Maiesties burghes of  
 Scotland, laitlie convenit at Selkirk, sub-  
 feryvand be our commoun clerk of conven-  
 tioun at our command.

[*Indorjed.*]

The copy of the lettre sent be the  
 burrowes to the Kings Maiestie,  
 with Sir Alexander Hay.

LXXIII.—SIR ANDREW MURRAY OF BALVAIRD TO KING JAMES VI.  
JULY 13, 1608.

MAY IT PLEAS YOUR SACRED MAIESTIE,

I haue bein, be vertew of your heichnes commandement, accusit be the Erl of Dumbar, as gif I haid bein ane most ondwetifull subiect vnto your maiestie, kything the malice of my hart by the vttering of onreverent speiches. Your maiesties informer is Androw Henderfoun, of quhom I will forbear to speak any thing, least I fould feim to haue no better defence nor the accusing of my accuser. The first point of my accusation is, that I haue callit your maiesties promiss bot dissimulationis, and quhatfoeuer may, by consequence, be inferrit vpon this point, for verification quherof he hes producit vnto the Erl of Dumbar ane letter wrettin by me from Roistoun, the last of March 1604, directit vnto my vncle my Lord of Scone. The woordes ar theis:—My Lord, efter I had wrettin at lenth vnto your Lordship with Maister David Moray, I haue tryit sum thinges, quherof my dewtie bindes me to aduertife your Lordship. Notwithstanding of that quhilk I wret to you in my last letter, that his maiestie had faid vnto my selff concerning you, I fear it be al bot dissimulation; quhilk woordes, how far they man be wresit befor they can proue the thing alledgit, I am persuadit that your maiesties self, without any apologie of myn, will most gratiousslie confider. Neuertheles, to the end your maiestie may the moir cleirly onderstand how far this malicious imputatioun disflagreis from my trew meaning, I will bot fehortlie fay this meikill. That former letter, quherof I maik mentioun, sent be Maister David Moray, had in it tua parts. The first was ane declaration how your maiestie had not only most gratiousslie admittit me to your prefence, bot also gracit me with most fauorabill countenance; and, mairouer, most bountifullie had givin commandement to gif me tua hunderith

pund. The vther part was, that I had rememberit my vncle vnto fundrie of your maiesties counsell and sum of your fauorites, from quhom I had refault great protestatiounis of affection vnto him, and as great promissis of freindschip in his adoes. Bot befor the wretting of this last letter (quherof I am now accusit), I was certanlie informit be sum of my vncles special freindes, that they from quhom I had refault fairest woordes wer his greatest enemies; quhilk mouit me to call their promissis dissimulat, sa that the fence of my woordes ar very cleir after this maner, notwithstanding of that quhilk I wret in my last letter that your maiestie had said and done vnto my self; yet that quhilk I wret concerning my vncle, I tuik it al to be bot dissimulatioun. Gif my former letter wer as weill to the foir to be producit vnto your maiestie as this last is, it wald maik al this matter most cleir. Bot as God schal be my iust judge, I haue set down vnto your maiestie most trewlie beath the contents of the one, and my meaning in the vther. Their fallowes in my letter [I know his maiestie to be as they ar that be about him, and I assuיר зow, зe haue no fauour of them that ar in greatest credit heir]. To this I answer, that I was neuer sic a fott to think that your maiestie was so simpill to be guydit be them that ar about зow. I haue boith hard and fein to muche of your maiesties wifdom and resolutioun to think sa vyld a thought. Bot my meaning was, seing my vncle had no fauour of them that wer in greatest credit about your maiestie, the quhilk I was most certanlie mead to beleiue, therfoir, I greatlie fearit that their hard informatioun might muif your maiestie agenth him, he not being present to answer for him self, and hauing about your maiestie so many enemies. Their rests yet moir in my letter. [I heir say that their is ane turn past heir in fauoures of Androw Henderfoun, into the quhilk your lordschip hes great neid to tak head to your proceeding; for, albeit his maiestie hes past it vnto him, I fear it be rather to try how зe behaue your self, nor for any good mynd they had to pleafour Androw Henderfoun]. Theis woordes, I houp, neid no apologie. Befor God, I had mynd of nothing concerning your maiestie. I know, and that be experience, that all your maiesties grants ar, and haue bein, euer frie and absolut. My only meaning was, of the advantage they that wer about your maiestie might maik of my vncles behaviour in this

matter; for it was directlie said be sum of them, that he wald content Androw Henderfoun with a smal pairt, and tak the rest to himself. From this point, it will please your maiestie to consider that the grund of my accusatioun procedeis, and not from that zeal and affectioun my accuser professis to bear vnto your maiestie, or els he had communicat this to your heichnes at the first, and not keipit the sam besyds him thir four 3eires and moir, and now at lenth reveilit it be the instigation of vther men, as himself pairtly confessis. Their is no man could moir justlie accuse me vpon this matter nor the Erl of Dumbar, gif his lordschip had knawen my trew meaning, for it was his lordschip of quhom I cheiflie meant in my letter, and I haue crauit his lordschip most humblie pardoun for that I was so folische vpon any informatioun to beleue that his lordschip thocht vtherwayes nor he had said vnto my selff. Gif I durst haue presumit without your maiesties leue, I wald, with prostrating myselff at your maiesties feit, be woord and not be letter, haue mead this my most trew declaratioun, and vnto the tym your maiestie grant me that libertie (quhilk, be thir presents, I most humblie beg at your gracious handes), my hart schal neuer be pertaker of any contentment. Albeit my conscience bears me witnes that I neuer so meikill as thought onreverentlie of your maiestie, yet am I grevid aboue measour to think that any thing fould haue efcapit my hand, quhilk, in the hardest constructioun, can be accountit for ondwetifulnes agenst your heichnes. Their is na thing in this world can discontent me moir then to want your maiesties fauour; bot to want it throch my awen just deseruing, wer to me insupportabill. I wer to be accountit the most ingrat wrech that euer had lyf, gif euer I had sufferit any such thought to haue had place within my mynd, considering the manifold fauoures your maiestie hes schawen boith to my self, and all my kynred. Their remaines yet the last point of my letter, into the quhilk I maik sum mentioun of my Lord Secretar. My simpill meaning was, that his lordschip at that tym had not so great fauour as he desyrit to haue had of theis that wer in credit about your maiestie. I will cease to trubill your maiestie any moir with my idill woordes, not dowting bot your maiestie will, according to your accustomit goodnes, consider that the affectioun I careit vnto my vnclis weill, mead me the moir earnest in my letter; and

gif their be any woordes in it onadvyfit or not weill chofin (as I do confes their is many), your maiestie will imput them to want of witt and laik of discretioun, quhilk euer accompanies youth, and not to malice, quhilk, I protest in the prefence of God, is as far remouit from my hart, as it fliks neir to their hart that does accuife me. Praying vnto the Eternall to grant vnto your maiestie ane moift happie and prosperous regne, and bliflit and lang lyff, I rest

Your Maiesties most humbill and most  
obedient subiect,

ANDRO MORAY  
of Baluaird.\*

Edinbrughe, the 13 of July 1608.

LXXIV.—LORD SCONE TO KING JAMES VI.

PLEIS YOUR SACRED MAIESTIE,

I wes conveynit heir befor my Lord of Dunbar, and confronted with Andro Henryfoine, wpoun fume wreuerend speicheis fpokin be me of your maiestie, quhilkis wer all utterly denyit, in the prefence of Sir Alexander Hay, your maiesties fecretar, that euer he haid fpokin or wrettin any thing in my preiudice, ather to your maiestie or ony vther man leiveand, quhilk if I haid euer hard fpokin be ony vther man in the world wncallengit, I nicht bein thocht the onlie wngrate and unworthie man in the world. Bot I leave this to your maiesteis gracious confideratioun, what all my actiounes hes bein in your maiesteis fervice, bothe in word and deid, quhairof I will be glaid content to be censuret be my grittest enemyis. Now, Sir, to qualifie this informatioun of Andro

\* Nephew of Lord Scone, afterwards first Viscount Stormont. He died without issue, Dec. 14, 1624, and was succeeded by his uncle.

Henryfonis, he hes producit ane lettre of my brother foneis, direct fra England to me, about the space of four 3eiris and ane half fence, at quhilk tyme, 3our maiestie will be remembrit, I maid eirnist fute to haue haid the fauour to haue remayneit with 3our maiestie, and to haue haid some place of credit thair, wherannent it pleisit 3our maiestie to fay to me, that 3our maiestie wold adwyfe with some of 3our Inglis counfall, to gett sume place to me; and at my waycomeing fra 3our maiestie, I delt with sik of 3our maiesteis counfall as came vp with 3our maiestie, to be my freind in absence, seing all the rest of the Scottis counfall that came with 3our maiestie wer preferrit to placeis of credit (bot I), of quhome I ressaueit verrie fair promiseis, nocht only to remember 3our maiestie, bot to be my particular freind, and my brotheris sone beand thair vpon some vther biffinesse of his awin with 3our maiestie, I desyreit him to hald sic of the counfall as haid promesit to be my freind in remembrance; quhilk he did, according to my directioun, and wrett heir to me to Scotland, with Mr David Muray, that he haid kisit 3our maiesties hand, and ressaueit ane verrie gracious ansuer of 3our maiestie in some of his awin particularis, and haid also remembrit sic of the counfall as I haid desyreit him to speik with in my fauoris, of whome he ressaueit verie guid wordis and fair promiseis, that thei wold nocht onlie remember 3our maiestie, and adwyfe with thame in the meynis, how some place might be gottin to me, quhilk letter pat me in hop to beine send for schortlie thairefter; and within fyf or sex dayis efter the receitt of this letter, my brotheris sone wrett to me ane vther letter, producit now be Andro Henderfone, wheirin he assuiris me, he is certefeit be sum speciall freindis of myue, that the fair promiseis that wer maid be sum of the counfall wes nothing bot dissimulatione, and speeciallie of thame that I trustit maist into, forbe some speicheis that he haid hard, he feirit that thei sould rather kyth my vnfreindis, and that 3our maiestie wes informeit be sic as wer about 3ou, that I haid sent Andro Henderfone to beg sumthing fra 3our maiestie, that I could nocht mak fute for myself, and quateuer 3our maiestie haid grantit to gif him, 3our maiestie wes informeit, he haid transactit with me for the same, and I wald gett the same to myself. Thir specheis beand reportit be sum freind to my brotheris sone, and he feiring I might be moveit fra the loue

I buire to Andro Henderfone, to pas his gift quhilk your maiestie haid grantit to him, and that the fame micht be layd to my chairge sum vther day, and out of the love my brotheris sone buire to me, he gave me this aduertement. And alsfone as this letter came to my handis, I sent it to Andro Henderfone, to the effect that he shuld tak na exceptiones of my guidwill, albeit, I haid refuseit to pas his gift in respect of the premissis, bot I gaue him foretie, that I wald deill with your maiestie for ane benefit to him, quhilk I did, and obtenit of your maiestie bettir nor sevin hundrethe merkis be 3eir, quhilk he possellis presently, quhilk wes thocht be maney of the cuntrie mair nor he meretit: 3it, in respect he did your maiestie no evill, being quhair he micht haue done it (if God haid nocht beine your maiesteis better freind), and ever fence that tyme I haue reteynit him in my service, and hes protectit him, and ever fall, and he hes haid the commandement of all that I haue in theis partis. Bot your maiestie will knaw in the awin tyme, that this is nocht come fra Andro Henryfone, for he wes neuer very wyfe, and he hes lost ane guid pairt of the witt quhilk he haid, for it appeiris he is nocht his awin man, for the quhilk I ame maist forey, and I will neuer tak me to him for ony thing that can be reportit of me to your maiestie, and in the awin tyme, your maiestie will knaw how this comeis, fra quhome, and how this pure man hes beine abusit. Alwayis, I man leave this and all my vther actionis, bothe in word and deid, to your maiesteis gracious consideratioun, fra the first tyme I haid the honour to serve your maiestie, quhilk is threttie tua 3eiris fence, and I neuer haid caus to weyrie, for your maiestie hes nocht onlie honorit me, bot gevin me all I haue in the world, and brocht me vp fra nothing, and if I shuld prove vngratte and wuthankfull to sa gracious a maister, I mereit punefment aboue all tratouris in the world. Sa, wisling your maiestie all happines, with the contenance of your maiesteis guid helthe,

I rest your Maiesteis humill and obedient  
servitour,

SCONE.\*

\* This letter has no date, but this is in a manner fixed by the preceeding one from his Lordship's nephew. Both these documents refer particularly to Andrew Henderson, who was said to be the

## LXXV.—THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE TO KING JAMES VI.

AUGUST 3, 1608.

MAIST SACRED SOUERANE,

Be your heighnests directioun, your trustie and faithfull ferutour, and my awin auld freind, my Lord Earle off Dumbar, communicat unto me yisterday your majesties lettir, concerning fuim opinioun that your maiestie fould haue confaued, that I entertenie fuim purpois and communicatioun, ather directie or indirectie, be interchange off lettirs with your sacred maiesties worthie, maist nobill, and darrest bedfallow, in maters tuiching your heighnests estat heir, and your maist speciall and maist confident seruantis.\* I thoct the said lettir (for I had bot a shiort wien off it) baith lang, pitthie, and passionat, as I nather will nor can denie bot thair war maist iust cause to your heighnests, to be offendit at me in all heighest degree, gif euir it had entred in my minde, to attempt to medill in ony sic thing, or to haue ony sik trafik in your heighnests affaires. I am forced, in all humilitie, to entreat your heighnests excuse me, that I can nocht mak sik purgatioun off this crime be my lettir, as it wald require, gif I war onye wayes giltie off the fame; for I protest unto your sacred maiestie, ondir quhais prencelie fauour, clemencie, and pro-

person that detained the King in custody at Gowrie House. Some writers assert that he was, although absent, examined to corroborate the King's statement, the truth of which was questioned, in the belief that the circumstance of his having been Lord Gowrie's Chamberlain would add weight to his testimony. Others contend that he was really present on the occasion. There certainly are some slight differences in the King's narrative and Henderson's deposition; but we really think that too much stress has been attached to them. Indeed, unimportant discrepancies in evidence, where the main facts agree, frequently tend rather to remove than create suspicion of collusion. However the fact may have been, Henderson was the gainer, as, besides other gifts, according to this letter he had an annual allowance of 700 merks—a very handsome income in those times.

\* These real or supposed intrigues are **not** noticed, so far as the Editor has been able to ascertain, by any of the contemporary writers.



tection, and be quhais onely aduancement and instructioun I haue attained to all the knowlege and experience I haue in the affaires of this estaitt, and am rafin in this fortown I am in, far aboue my merite, vpon that faith and treuth I aught baith unto God and to your maiestie, albeit I be euin at this present in als greate a passioun as euer I haue bein in, for the maist manifest and greate wrangs of calomneis I haue fustleined in this Generall Assemblie, as I doubt nocht bot your heighnes, in your heigh wifdome and iustice, will off your self wye and confidder: yit came thair neuer to me sik a greiff in hait and minde, as I refaued be your heighnes foresaid lettir, be the apprehensioun I tak your heighnes fould suspect ony sik thing off me. It has wounded me sua, that it has putt me fra all other thocht or cair; for as I wald think myself onwordie to be leiuand, gif I haid committed sa filthe an errour, sua man I disdane baith my lyf and baill estaitt, sa lang as I am in feare my maist gracious fouerane has onye suspicion, I be onye wayis giltie of sa abominabill crime. This apprehensioun troublis sua euin my witt, that it can nocht furnishe me purgations ansurabill in onye measure to my desire; and gif I wald sett down to your maiestie, all the purgations that my iust dolour and greiff presentis unto me, I could nocht mis to be importune, tedious, and troublisum. I hoipe I haue be toung satisfieit my Lord Earle of Dumbar, and he has shiawin me, he hoiped in this point to satisfie your sacred maiestie.

This onely I will craue your heighnes pardon to wryte planelie as I meane, as I fould ansuer unto God, nixt to that deutie I aught to God, according to my knowlege, I eiuened nor equaled neuer na thing in this world to your maiesties fauour, and I preferred nor wyed neuer in paragon onye thing with your heighnes plesour, contentment, or honour, nor thinks neuer to doe. The werre calomneis, and malicious delations, gein furth at onye tyme against me self, greiuis me nocht sa meikill for onye entrefs off my awin, as for the consequence thairoff, may redound on your sacred maiestie, that it fould be thocht your heighnes greate wifdome, may haue bein sua filed and abused in the preferrement off sik a man, and on ony iust occasioun, had bein or war ministrat be me thair-off. I wifs rather I war dissolued in dust, and had neuer bein.

This I maist humblie, hairtlie, and sincerlie craue of yior heighnes prencelie dispositioun to think off me, till in yior greate wifdome and iustice yie trye ony contrair. Sua, maist humblie taking my leiuie, with the kifs of yior sacred hand, and praying fra my hait the Eternall lang to preferue yior heighnes in all blifs and prosperitie, I reste eiuer

Your sacred Maiesties maist humbill and obedient  
subiect and feruitour,

DUNFERMELYNE.

Frome Edinburgh, 3<sup>o</sup> Aug<sup>ti</sup> 1608.

To the Kingis maist excellent Maiesttie.

LXXVL.—THE EARL OF ANGUS TO KING JAMES VI.

AUGUST 10, 1608.

PLEIS YOUR SACRED MAIESTIE,

I haue bein this langtyme confyned in Glasco, ane part far frome my leifing and freindschip, quhair be the daylie resort of some of my enimies and euill willaris some unhappie truibill may fall furthe, by my will, and without my knowlege; and now the Generall Assemblie hes giffin furthe ane act to excommunicat me, befor the xviij day of September. Quhat greif and sorrow this bringis to my hart, God knawis; becaus my graittest cair hes ewir bein, and falbe, that I myght end my dayes (quhilk, I am perswadit, fall not be many) at peace with God, and in your maiesties obedience. My dewtifull affectioun to your hienes commandementis I remitt to your maiesties memorie, and my queat behaiour in religioun, the presbiteries quhair I remannit can beir record; for I beleif your maiestie hes not hard ony complainttis of me, in particular, fens your maiesties pertting frome Scotland. Newir the lefs, as I am informit the kirk intendis to wfe ane fommer procefs against me, except that your

gratius maiestie find out, and grant me fome remeid. The permission quhilk of graice only I craue (gif it pleis not your hienes to ease me with ane better) is, ether to depert this cuntrie, conforme to your hienes licence all redie grantid, with fuitrie not to returne; or els, that it wald pleis your maiestie to confyne me within ane of my awin houffis, and so many myllis about the fame, quhair I am glaid to leif as ane priuat subiect, and newir to medill me with publict affairis, bot be your maiesties directioun. The experience of your maiesties accustomat clemencie towardis me imbauldís me to this heumbill petitioun, and gif it war not the estait and a matter of conscience, I protest befor God, I wald haue bein laith to haue truiblit your maiestie with sic fuittis; and yet ane thing I moift humblie intrait your maiestie to mak deference of men, conforme to thair deferuing: and thus, in kissing your maiesties princelie hand, I pray God to send your maiestie lang lyf, and prosperus reign.

Your Maiesties moift heumbill and  
obedient subiect,

ERLL OF ANGUS.

Glasco, the 10 of August 1608.

To the King his moft excellent and gracious Maiestie.

LXXVII.—THE MARQUIS OF HUNTLY TO KING JAMES VI.

AUGUST 12, [1608?]

PLEIS YOUR MOST SACRED MAIESTIE,

Having haid from my 3ongest 3eirís that good hap and honour, as to be acceptit in your moft sacred maiestis seruís to be the mediatioun of the last Duk of Lenox, your maiestis moft fauorit coufing and seruiteur, and fins that tyme I leíue it to your sacred maiestis auin super naturall wífdom and memorie, to remember gif I haue not at all tymís giuin proof of my affectioun, loyaltie, and obediens, quhanfocuir

it hes pleist your sacred maiestie till honour me with your commandements ; and nou, finding my estait endangerit, and my urak socht, be more rigorous deling than I was informid your sacred maiestie did requier of me, I am forsit to feik quhar I haue euer lenit to the anker of my refuge, quhilk is your sacred maiestis fauorable clemencie, befeiking your sacred maiestie not to condiscend to the ruine of him quha hes nathaer lyf, land, nor blood bot it that falbe uairit but exceptioun, quhansoever your sacred maiestis seruiss fall requier the same, hoping that your sacred maiestis constancie and fauour, quhilk is the stoup of my repos, fall beir me throch this trubill, as it hes borne me throch greater heirtofor. And albeit I knau I haue monie craftie euilluillars to deill in my contrar, and my self far distant from your sacred maiestis comfortable prefens, zit I desyd not of your sacred maiestis fauorable constancie towards me, feing my affection and obediens falbe continuall. Therfor, Sire, dispos of me as fall best pleis your sacred maiestie, for I fall haue no uill of myn bot till abey youris ; nathaer desyr I to leiuie langer gif it be not to serue and content your sacred maiestie : so I will befeik your most sacred maiestie till put me till sum constant stand out of this continuall trubill, for one uord of your sacred maiestis uill uirk my peace, quhilk is the onlie reuard I craiue for my long seruiss bygaine. I haue directit ane kinsman of myne, berar heirof, till declare unto your sacret maiestie mair particularlie my estait, gif it fall pleis your sacred maiestie till honour him with your prefens. Sua, craiuing pardoun for my baldnes, efter the kissing maist humblie of your sacred maiestis hand, I uill pray the Eternall God to preferue euer your most sacred maiestie in lang lyfe, and most prosperous reнге, with all contentment.

Your most sacred Maiestis humble subiect and  
most affectionat seruiteur to the deith,

HUNTLYE.

At Aberdein, this tuelt of Auguft.

To the Kings most sacred Maiestie.

## LXXVIII.—THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL TO KING JAMES VI.

AUGUST 18, 1608.

MOST GRACIOUS SOUERANE,

We refflaued your maiefteis lettre, concerning your heynes direction to call befoir <sup>y</sup>s fuche lawyeris as fett thair bandes to that forme of Hairtfydis caife\* fent vp to your heynes, and to proceede aganis thame accordingly; wherein, we wer most cairfull to haif gevin vnto your maieftie fatiffaetioun; bot becaus we wantit the principall lettre whiche wes subferyved be the lawyeris,† wherby we myght haif led a formall proces aganis thame, we haif fuffert that mater to reit, quhill it fall pleis your maieftie to caus the principall be fend doune, at whiche tyme we fall fo proceed in that mater, as we fall gif vnto your maieftie fatiffaetioun. We haif conferrit with some three or foure of the principallis of the aduocatis, who feameth to miiknow the tennour of the lettre and wryte fend vp, fo that we could find no mater nor purpois wherupoun to challenge thame. Thair hes bene a petition gevin in to your maiefteis counfaiil be the

\* Margaret Hartsyde or Hertsyde, spouse of John, afterwards Sir John Buchannan, was, 10th August 1608, convicted of stealing some of the jewels of Queen Anne, declared infamous, and banished to Orkney. See Pitcairn's Criminal Trials, vol. ii. p. 544. In December 1619, the King by his warrant ordered the declaration of infamy to be expunged from the record; at same time stating that she had been, "by the sinisterous information of certain of her vnfriends for the tyme, persewit criminalle." Balfour, in his Annals, says that the "courtiers talked" she was punished "for reuelling some of the Queen's secretts to the King, wich a wysse chalmbermaide wold not haue done." Annals, vol. ii. p. 26.

† This letter has not been recovered. The "prelocoutoures for the pannell" were Mr William Oliphant, afterwards Lord Advocate; Mr, afterwards Sir Thomas Hope; Mr Alexander King, an eminent advocate, who, however, according to Robert Johnstoun's account, Hist. Rerum Britt., folio. p. 231, usually bribed the judges with a portion of the fees he received from his clients; and Mr John Russell; Mr Robert Buchannane, minister at the Kirk of Ceres; Mr William Buchannan, minister at Methven. The two latter were probably relatives.

burrowis, craving a restrent to be maid of the transporting of burnecoill; bot becaus findrie of your maiesteis liegeis hes gottin licenceis for tranfporting of coillis, in consideratioun of the great chargeis and expensfis whiche thay haif sustenit, and daylie vndirlyis in wyning and vpholding of thair coilheuchis, we haif differred the anfuering of thair petition till the knowlege of your maiesteis pleafour, we being loath to quarrell your maiesteis licenceis without your maiesteis allowance. And sua, most humelic recommending your sacred maiestie, and all your royall progenye, to Godis divyne protectioun, we rest

Your Maiesteis moift humble and obedyent  
subiectis and feruitouris,

AL. CANCELL<sup>s</sup>.

LOTHIANE.

SANCHAR.

ELPHINSTOUN.

BLANTYRE.

J. BALMERINOCHE.

ROSS.

JAMES HAY.

18 August 1608.

To the Kingis most excellent Maiestie.

LXXIX.—THE REVEREND ROBERT DURIE TO KING JAMES VI.

OCTOBER 21, 1608.

PLEAS YOUR MAIESTIE,—MOST DREAD SOVERANE,

I have hard of lait that your maiestie hes conceaued a new offence againt me, be occasione of a speech which (as is reported) the Conferuatour hes spoken to your hienes of me, namelie, that I fuld hav said to him, be way of traducing your hienes, that your maiestie gave way to the rebellione in Irlande, to the end your hienes mycht seem con-

straigned to grant toleration to the Papistes; wherein, if he or any vther  
 hes so reported of me, both your maiestie and I suffer great wrong. If  
 ther had been such cursed intentione in me as to traduce your maiestie  
 (which the searcher of all heartes knawes wes and is fare fra my heart),  
 it is not probable that I wald hav done it to such a persone, who I know  
 so reverences and affectes your maiestie, according to his bound dewtie.  
 It is trew that, because I wes in conference with me Lord Conferuitore,  
 and having occasione to be among strangeres who wer talking of the  
 oversight and places that Papistes hes vnder your hienes, and remembering  
 how it wes spokin of, that Papistes had great credit, materes of  
 Yrland wer not much regarded, and that the number of Romishe Catho-  
 lickes did greatlie growe, this, said thay, apparentlie myght bring in libertie  
 of Poprie, ather be necessitie or be some course of policie. Now, because  
 the Conferuator is one of your hienes councele, and myght som tyme  
 have occasione to speake a word in season to your hienes, how strangeres  
 feantes of thinges that thay heir, and so myght giv councele for remead-  
 ing such thinges as any way myght seem to hinder the growth of your  
 maiesties honorable and gloriouse estimation among the godlie; therefore,  
 be way of information and report of the speech of vtheris, I did report  
 seeretlie, none being witnes betwix him and me bot God, what wes spokin  
 be vtheres, lyk as, if I had been in credit myself, and cowld have found  
 convenient opportunitie at that tyme, I wald have thought it my dewtie  
 to have craved pardone of your hienes, to have spokin to your maiestie all  
 that I spak to the Conferuatour, lyk as fra my heart, I desire the increse  
 of your hienes good estimation, and wald have everie thing removed that  
 may hinder the growth of the famyne. In end, it wes subjoynd, that I  
 trusted the rebellione in Yrland shuld move your maiestie to tak such  
 ordour, that all these doubtis shuld be takin out of menes myndis. This,  
 Sir, is the simple trewth of that mater, and if ather the Conferuatour or  
 any vther (yet, to my remembrance, I had na speech of such mater bot  
 with him) hes spokin vther waye, the thing I said is far mistakin, and  
 that which I reported as the speech of another, be way of information,  
 is given out to your maiestie in my nam, be way of assertion. Heerof  
 it proceedes, that the thing done be me with a dewtifull and reverent affec-

tion of heart toward your hienes, is imput to me as if I had traduced my lord the king, which God and men knawes my heart hes ever abhored to do to any, bot much mor to my foverane lord. Alwayfe, Sir, it will please your maiestie to tak notice of the purpofe of my heart in this mater, as also of the circumftances in vttering my dewtifull affection to your hienes eftimation, and what your maiestie judges that I haue offendit in any circumftance in this mater, as I fhall wnderftand thair of, I will in all humilitie of heart acknowleg and crave pardone for the fame, perfwaded that the trewth of that mater being knawin as it wes, your maieftie will never imput it as any giltines to me, bot (according to my earneft defyre) freele forgive whatfoever overflight that, throw my fimplitie and good intentione, may accidentlie have efchaped me heirin. Now, I befech the Lord to blife your maiesties royale perfone and government, with your queen and princle pofteritie, with all good blifinges for this lyf, and that which is to come, and eftablifh your throne vnto the coming of our Lord in the cloudes, to fet all thinges in ordour, Amen.

Your Maiefties loyall and faythfull fubject, humble  
fuppliant, and daylie oratoure,

MR ROBERT DURIE.\*

Middelbrughe, the 21 of October 1608.

\* Formerly Minister of Anstruther. He was one of the Ministers indicted for high treason in 1606, and convicted by the management of the Earl of Dunbar. See Melros Papers, vol. i. p. 10, and M'Crie's Life of Melville, Edin. 1824, 8vo. vol. i. p. 119. After being imprisoned fourteen months in Blackness Castle, he was banished to France. Subsequently he became Minister at Leyden, and died there in the year 1616.



LXXX.—THE REV. PATRICK SYMSONE TO KING JAMES VI

NOVEMBER 10, 1608.

DREADE SOUERANE,

The returning of sum of the commiffionares of the Generall Affemblic lailie frome your maieftie, togidder with thair reporte of your hienes gracious acceptatioun bothe of thame felis and of thair commiffion alfo, hes nocht onlie wrocht grite ioy in our hairtes, bot alfo hes incuragit ws to prefent vnto your maieftie moft humbill and haitie thankis for your hienes moft fauorable countenance, and gracious acceptatioun foirfaid. Becaus the gritteft bliffing that our hairtes could haif wiffchit, wes to fie in our tyme one God trewlie worfchippit, one king dewtifullie feruit, one law reuerentie obeyit, one faithe and religioun allanerlie, vnfenzetlie profellit within this realme, this bliffing (we fay), quhilk our hairtes fo earnestlie wiffit to fie throuche your maiefties gude inclinatioun to advance the trewth of God, is liklie to attene to ane grittare mefoure of perfectioun then euer we could haif expected in our dayes. Our pairte falbe (Godwilling), by all humbill feruice, dewtifull obedience, and reuerent fubiection, to glaid the harte of our Souerane Lord, to the end your maieftie do nocht this worke with greif, bot with ioy and full contentment of mynd, and lykewys with our eirneft fupplicationes to ftrengthen your maiefties handis, that poware may cum frome above to mak your hienes authoritie feirfull to all the profellit enemies of Chrifteis gofpell, bothe within and without the cuntrie. And albeit we could neuer as yit attene to the perfectioun of the beft forte of wyfe cheldrene, quha haif careit thame felis fo dewtifullie toward thair father, that in all thair lyfetime thay haif nocht procured ane angrie looke of thair fatheris countenance, nor yet ane fcharpe ftrype frome thair fatheris handis, yit we fall indeuoir (God willing) to be in the fecund rank of wyfe cheldrene, quha walkis circumfpectlie and warlie, fering, frome thair haitis, to gif iuft cauf of offence to thair gracious and loving father. Your maieftie, according to your wounded clemencie, will pitie infirmitie in your humbill feruandis, and punifhe proude malice in your enemies, quha have pre-

fumit (as we heare) to cast furthe, to the vew of the worlde, railing writings against my Lord the King; bot the foule of my Lorde the King fall be bounde in the boundell of lyf withe the Lorde thy God, and the foule of thy enemeis fall God cast out of the middle of ane sling, 1 Sam. 25; quha dispyfes governament and ar presumptuous, and stand in thair awin conceate, and feare nocht to speake evill of thame that ar in authoritie, 2 Pet.; quhais custome alfo it is to stand far af, to barke lyke doggis against godlie princes, fearing to be beatine with the staff of lauchfull authoritie, gif they approche neare. Thairfoir, most gracious souterane, we humblie intreate your maiestie to count this to be ane pece of the rebuke of Christe, quhilk fall purches to your hienes in this worlde ane sure and steadfast hous, and, in the worlde to cum, ane wecht of vn-speakable glorie, and so muche the rather, nocht to tak siche railing speches greuoullie, becaus the Lord hes maid your maiestie wyfe, lyke ane angell of God, to knowe good and euill; and with the pithe of your maiesties royall pen, to be als feirfull to all learned for ane aduerfariis, as, by the strenthe of ane lauchfull and fattled authoritie, to dantoun all intestene and domestlike rebellis. Finallie, we humblie entreate your maiestie to beare with our boldnes and rudenes as ane father dois with his awne babes, quha lykes better of the blobering speches of his awine cheldrene proceding frome love, then of all the painted eloquence of his haitfull enemeis. This, in all humbill maner wishing to your maiestie long lyfe and ane prosperous ringne, we cease to impeche your maiesties eares with farder wordes.

Your Maiesties humbill seruandis, the Brethren  
of the Presbiterie of Striuling, subseruiand  
be ane of thair nomber, at thair command.

PATRIK SYMSONE.\*

Striuling, the tent day of Nouember 1608.

To his Maiestie.

\* Minister of Striuling. He wrote a History of the Christian Church, originally published at Edinburgh in 4to, by Andro Hart, and afterwards at London, 1624, folio.

LXXXI.—THE REV. JOHN HALL AND THE REV. PETER HEWATT  
TO KING JAMES VI.

NOVEMBER 15, 1608.

PLEASE YOUR MAJESTIE,

After our former letters, our supplication written in the favours of the town here, some thing was done be them for your majesties contentment, wherewith we thought good to acquaint your highnes. They, perceiving your majesties displeasure to arise upon their former election of a provest, did hasten to some speedie remedie that their offer of amending shuld not be compted verball only, and have this day, the fiftenth of this instant November, made election of Sir John Arnot to be their provest for the yeir to come. Whilk doing of theirs dois furnish to us greater boldnes with your majestie, and makis us with the greater earnestnes to renew our former humble sute, that it may please your majestie accept of this amends, with our promise, in their name, of greater warinesse in all tyme cumming. It hes ever bene your majesties custome to gaine by clemencie, and recall offenders, gif their pertinacie did not thraw from your majesties hand rigour and extremitie. Upon this your majesties clemencie, wee rest in this particular, that, having to doe with them who are feared in any fort to incurre your majesties displeasure, and whose only frowning keepis them in sufficient aw, there may be, in steid of your majesties hatred or anger toward them (where at their unfriends wald rejoice), a continuance of your majesties woonted love and favour. Thus, craving pardon for our boldnes, we humbly tak our leave.

Your Majesties most humble and obedient subjects,

JO. HALL.

MR P. HEWATT.

Edinburgh, 15 November 1608.

To the Kings most excellent Majestie.

## LXXXII.—THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE TO KING JAMES VI.

DECEMBER 2, 1608.

MAIST SACRED SOUERAINE,

Following to my powar your maiesteis princelie intentioun, and the good exemple we had of your hienes, when the licht of your prefence and wifdome was heir schyning amongs ws, for tryall off thir wild murtheris of the Laird of Culzeane, Tutour of Cassills, and Williame Darumple, parfewit be the Erle off Cassills aganis the Lairdis off Achindraine, eldar and youngar, I have bene cairfull to vse all the moyanes our lawis and practique wald permitt me, at the pairteis desire. This last oulke, with my Lord Archebifchope off St Androis, the Justice Clerk, Priuie Seall, Lord Whittinghame, Sir Jhone Arnote, and your maiesteis aduocat, I examinat diuers dayes baithe the lairdes, and some other witneffis, wpon interrogatouris werie pertinent to the triall of the purpois, whilk war alwayes impertinent to truble your maiestie withall. We find thame obstinatlie resolwed to denye all nicht ather concerne the fact, or ony thing nicht gif licht to mak thame guiltie thairoff. Bot thair ansuers ar sic, and the yieung laird in sic contrarietie with his formar depositions in principall poynts, and sic contrarieties betuix the father and the sone in werie materiall poynts, as the faids answers in our examinatioun weyed with thair going to the horne, when thai war first challenged for the crime, thair daylie intercommunong with thair man Ballentyne, who hes tayne the cryme on him, and is fugitive thairfoir, and with innumerable other circumstances, maid ws all to think in our consciences thaj war baithe guiltie. Notwithstanding whereof, knowing partielie gif thaj had presentlie bene putt to ane affise, wpon thair awin denyall thaj wald haif bene elenged, be aduys off seeret counfall, I hawe continowed the day off law to Februar nixt, to tak farder inquisitioun in this mid tyme, and to have farder aduerteisment from your sacred

maiestie whow to proceed in that mater, or gif it be your hienes will the iustice be ordoned to proceed to onye extraordinar forme in triall of theese factis, feing thaj carie sic extraordinar and barbarous example, the last being the murthour off ane pure boy, only to cover the guiltines of the first murthour of the tutour of Cassills, sic a blood as may continowallie crye to heaven aganis the haill land, till it be purged. The criminalls ar still keped in waird. The crime off the awin nature is be act of Parliament trafoun, murthour onder trust.

Heirin attending your maist gracious maiesteis prencelie ordonance and commandements, praying for all felicitie to your highnes in a long and prosperous regnne, fwa restis

Your sacred Maiesties maist humbill and obedient  
subiect and feruitour,

DUNFERMELYNE.

Edenburgh, 2d December 1608.

To the King his maist excellent Maiestie.

LXXXIII.—THE EARL OF CASSILLIS TO KING JAMES VI.

DECEMBER 3, 1608.

MAIST SACREED SOUERANE,

It may pleis your gracious maiestie, I haue taikin this bauldnes, vpon the farder tryall of the trechrous murthouris of my vnclie, the Laird of Culzeaine, and of the boy quha careit the lettir of his dyett, committit be the Laird of Auchindraine and his sonne, and now farder cleirit be the greit paine and cayr of my Lord Chancelare, quha hes broicht thame to fik contrarietie in thair depositionis, that all indifferent

men may be perfwadit off thair guyltines of baith thais murthouris, notwithstanding quhairof thaj still continew in ane denyall. I wald maift humelie befeik your maieftie, that it may be your maiefteis gracious plefour to graunt ane warrand to the chancelar and counfall of Scotland to putt thame to the buittis, quhairthrow thaj may be broicht to the mair evident confeffion. So, maift hartlie vyffing your maiefteis lang prosperitie and happines for euer, I remane

Your Maiefteis maift humbill feruant  
and fuieſt,

CASSILLIS.

Edinburgh, the thrid of December 1608.

To the King his maift excellent Maieftie.

LXXXIV.—LORD BLANTYRE TO KING JAMES VI.

DECEMBER 17, 1608.

MAY IT PLEIS 3OUR MOST GRATIOUS MAIESTIE,

To lett my feiknes thir tuentie dayis excuife maift humlie to 3our hienes my lang delay in acquainting 3our maieftie with that, quhilk, I perfwade me, is cum or now to 3our moſt ſacred earis, how haifing be 3our maiefteis moſt loving and gracious aduife, endit with 3our maiefteis couſing the Erle of Athole anent his erldome, in prefence of his neareſt and beſt affected freindis to the ſtanding of that houſe, and with thair approbatioun and allowance, as the minut of our appointment ſent to 3our hienes truſtie counſalour and ſecretar, Sir Alex<sup>r</sup> Hay, will mair at lenth informe 3our maieftie, he notwithstanding, vpon the xxvij day of November laſt, retired him fra my companie to the Maifter of Tullibardin,

the Laird of Graunt, and Mr James Stewart, commissar of Dunkeld, all tryfted togidder to meit him quietlie at Sterling, and to transport him, as thay haif done, to the boundis of Athole, thair to disturbe the peciabil and quiett estait, quhilk be your maiesteis commiffioun we haif fattled in thais pairtis, and to vndoo, gif it culd ly in him, quhat is perfytted and concludit betuix him and me with his faid freindis aduife, leaving me in the mean tyme ingadgit for him in mair nor fourtie thowfsand markis vpon the foirend of our bargane. In this defeing, quhat wrang is done to your maiestie your hienes will castlie confidder, gif it may pleis you to be rememberit, how, quhen it pleased your maiestie, out of your gracious cair to that your coungis weill, to frie him of his straiteft waird, and to fend for him, and honour him with your gracious prefence at Quhythall, your maiesteis pleafour at that tyme was to deliuer him to me befor your hienes darrest and most faithfull coungis, the Duke of Lennox and the Erle of Dumbar, and to confyne him in my company till your maiestie fould quiett his estait, commanding him in the mean tyme to gif me his hand in pledge, that he fould not efcape till he wer fred be expres warrand from your maiestie ; and how I, at that time conceating that quhilk is fallin out, maist humlie prayed your maiestie to tak his hand your self to that effect, for he mycht brek to me, bot he wald be advyfit or he did fo to your maiestie, quhilk your hienes was pleased to do accordinglie, with ane affurance to him, that as your maiestie had bene most gracious and fauorabil to him heirtofor, and fo was myndit to continew, gif he wald follow and relie to your aduife and counfale in his turnis, and keip him quiett in my companie, fa gif he meant to efcape at any tyme without your hienes preuitie and warrand, your maiestie wald leave him to him self, and lett your lawis haif courfe and executioun aganis him, quhilk, be a folempne aith, he swore befor your maiestie neuer to incur be that occaffioun. This I beleving to be fo fuire a band as neidit no attendance on him for his keiping, was content to lett him ryde or go vpon his word quhair he thocht meit ; lykas vpon the foirfaid day, requiring leave of me to ga to Glasgou for his paffyme, imbraeit that occaffioun to keip his tryft at Sterling, and to accompanie his tryfteris thairfra toward Athole, pretending to the warld for his excuife

your maiestis warrand and allowance for that course, cairles in the meantyme baith of his honour, ingadgit be his aith and hand to your maiestie to the contrair, and of his dewtie to myselff, quhome for his honorabill and freindlie vface thir twa 3eiris bigane in my cumpanie, he myndis to requyte with ane vndouted wrak to me and myne, except your hienes interpone your present help for our releiff. Maist humlie thairfore befeiking your most gracious maiestie to lett this dowbill wrang done to your hienes be that man and his intyferis to this course be re-commendit in a speciall maner to your maiestis counfall heir, desyryng thame to tak sick fcharpe and spedie ordour for the repairing thair of, as your maiestie may find thame to respect it according to your interest, and as your maiestis awin cause; and, in the meintyme, to direct thair chairges to his convoy for his representing befor thame, and, failzeing thair of, to enter thair awin perfonis in feuerall wairdis till he be represented; quhairin your maiestie fall baith mak thair attempt in this a terroure to all vtheris to abuse your sacred prefence to sic turnis in tyme cuming, and mak the commoun benefite of your hienes lawis effectuell for my releif of the great debt and troubill quhairin I haif involuit me for his occasioun. Hoiping for your maiestis maist gracious and spedie answer, maist humlie I tak my leiff, befeiking God to send your maiestie most prosperous and mony dayis, and ane happie regne,

Your Maieftis maist humbill subiect  
and fervitour,

BLANTYRE.\*

Edinburgh, the xvij of December 1608.

To the King his most sacred Maieftie.

\* Walter Stewart, the only son of the second marriage between Sir John Stewart of Minto and Margaret Stewart, daughter of James Stewart of Cardonald. He was bred up along with James VI. under Buchanan, and was much favoured by that monarch, from whom he obtained the priory of Blantyre. He held various high appointments, and on 10th June 1606 was created Lord Blantyre. Carmichael's Tracts on the Peerage, p. 28. He died 8th March 1617.



## LXXXV.—THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL TO KING JAMES VI.

FEBRUARY 16, 1609.

MOST GRATIOUS AND SACRED SOUERANE,

We haif refflaued, to oure exceiding grite conforte, that decreit and fentence gevin in fauouris of the Lord Coluillis oy,\* in the queftioun and fubiect of Poft Nati, agitat thair befor the reuerend and learned iudgeis of that land, wherin, with all dew reuerence and moft humble thankis, we acknolege oure fellfis infinitelie bundin to your facred maieftie for that gratious, refpectiue, and comfortable confideratioun and remembrance whilk your maieftie hes of ws, and of euerie thing whilk may importe the honnour, credite, and publiet goode of this your maiefteis antient kingdome; wherof, as we haif daylie innumerable prooffis, and moft lyvelie experienceis, fo this lait fentence, whilk no doubt hes had the concurrence of your maiefteis moft rair and excellent iudgement, is moir nor fufficient to affure ws, with what tender cair and faderlie confideratioun your maieftie doeth affect ws. We haif delyuerit that fentence and decreit to the Clerk of Regifter, to be putt be him in your heyneis regifter, thair to remane as a recoird and memorie to the pofteriteis of

\* James, second Lord Colvill of Culross, who succeeded his grandfather, the first Lord, in 1620. He was born probably after the accession of James to the throne of England, by which means, according to the decision of the judges, as one of the *Postnati*, he became entitled to the privileges of a natural-born Englishman. His Lordship having died without issue, in the year 1620, the title, in consequence of a remainder to the heirs-male whatsoever of the patentee, devolved on John Colvill, nephew to the first Lord, but who never assumed it, and it remained dormant until, by a resolution of the House of Peers, it was resolved, 27th May 1723, that "John, Lord Colvill of Culross, is entitled to the honour and dignity of Lord Colvill of Culross, and ought to be placed in the list or roll of peers, according to the date of the patent creating Sir James Colvill a peer, 20th January 1609." Robertson's Proceedings, p. 115.

your maieſteis benignitie, and vnſpeakable affection borne to this eſtate. And ſua, moſt humelie praying God ſtill to manteyne and preſerue your maieſtie, with all your royall progenye, in all happynes and felicitie, we reſt for ever

Your Maieſteis moſt humble and obedyent  
ſubiectis and ſeruitouris,

AL. CANCELL<sup>s</sup>.  
LOTHIANE.  
P. ROLLOK.  
CRAFORD.

A. MAR.  
A. L. WCHILTRIE.  
HALYRUDHOUS.

Edenburgh, 16 February 1609.

To the Kingis moſt excellent Maieſtie.

LXXXVI.—THE EARL OF ANGUS TO KING JAMES VI.  
FEBRUARY 16, 1609.

PLEIS YOUR SACRIDE MAIESTIE,

Efter I had kiſſit the Frenche king his hand, at the deſyre of ſum Catholiques heir, I went to ſie the Poipis Nunce, and becaus your bienes ambaffadour (quha diſcharges ane faithfull and honorable dewtie to your maieſtie) had gottin intelligence by my knowledge, of ſum ſpeicheis that paſt betuix the Nunce and me concerning your maieſtie, he thoct it expedient to ſet down the ſame be letter. Bot becaus it war langſum to trobill your princle caires with ſo prolix and frivolous purpois, I have writtin the ſame in ane letter to Sir Alexander Hay, your

maiesteis secretair, to the effect that, gif your maiestie pleissis, ye may at ony iydill hour reid the fame; for befyd that I am your maiesteis subiect, the greit clemencie and favour I have resait by vtheris at your hienes handis, hes mair nor obleit me to manteane your maiesteis honour and reputatioun, at all tymes quhen occasioun presentis, quhairof, Godwill-  
ing, I fall never be forgetfull. So, praying God to grant your maiestie aboiff ws ane lang and prosperous regne, I humelie kifs your hienes hand.  
I rest for ever

Your Maiesties heumbill and faythfull subiect,

ERLL OF ANGUS.\*

Pareis, this xvi. of Februarij 1609.

LXXXVII.—THE LAIRD OF EDZELL TO KING JAMES VI.

MARCH 30, 1609.

MAIST SACRED SOVERANE,

It may pleise your maiestie, being advertest that the Erlle of Crawford† hes sent copyis to your hienes of certane lettres wrettin be me to my sone, and recoverit be him within the howse of Auchmwall, quhair my sone was wont to dwell, quhilkis informis, it was my will and command to flaye

\* His Lordship was, in July 1608, ordained to be excommunicated by the General Assembly. He had remained a prisoner in Glasgow for some time previously. Finding he could get no peace in his native country, he obtained leave from the King to retire to France.

† David, eleventh Earl, served heir to his father, 28th June 1608. His improvident conduct and dissolute courses are noticed by Sir Thomas Hamilton (afterwards Earl of Melros and Haddington), in a letter to the King. Melros Papers, p. 97.

the wmqulile Lord of Spynie,\* and fa platter and contriver of that onhappye and wylld flachter, thinking thairbye to awert your maieſteis woontit favor from me, and to diſgrace me at the handis of all honeſt men, I hawe choſine and prefumit to tak the hardiment, humblye to pray your bienefs nocht to giue credit to any cōpye of anye lettre coming from the handis of my enemyis, wnto the tyme the principall be tryit to be wrettin, ſubſcriwit, or directit be my ſelf; for I proteſt in preſence [of] God, I newer had anye ſick innaturall and ongodlye interpryſe in my heart, mekle leſs directit the doing thairōf. And to mak this mair manifeſt to all the world, I hawe intentit improbatioune, that all liwing may know howe iuſtlye I am vſit be the Erle of Crawford, and howe he quha was the beginner of all thir trowblis, be the murder of my wmqubill brother, Sir Walter, onder traift, wald nowe eik craft to his crueltes, and in place of repentance, be fals calumnyes wald alſo bereawe me of my fame and lyiff; albeit, I hawe ewer beine, and yit am, maiſt willing to abyd all ordinar tryell of lawe. Farther, I moſt alſo regrait that the ſaid Erle being laithlye at cowrt, hes privelye obtinit ane commiſſione wnto ane numer of his rioteris and dependeris for ferching of my ſone, and onder colour thairōf, hes intentit nocht onlye to ſurepryſe my houſe of Edzell, quhair my haill ewidentis, and of vther freindis, yit remanis, bot alſo to berawe me of my lyiff within my awin lwdging in Edinburgh, and to the effect ſoifaid, wearis daylie piſtolettis and hagbwtis, prohibitit be your maieſteis actis, alledging ewer they ar ſeeking rebellis. For remaid quhairōf, and my awin ſecuritie, in reſpect of the reaſonis ſoifaidis, ſpecialye becauſe your maieſteis honorabill Priwe Counfell hes alreadye grantit ane verie ample commiſſion, excepting onlye my howſe of Edzell, within the quhilk

\* The firſt Lord Spynie was, in July 1607, ſlain by Sir David Lindsay on the ſtreets of Edinburgh, in attempting to interfere between the Earl of Crawford and Sir David, the latter of whom was deſirous of avenging the murder of his kinsman, Sir Walter Lindsay, who had been aſſaſſinated by the Earl. Lord Spynie's death was generally ſuppoſed accidental, and is ſo ſtated by the writers of the time; but if Lord Crawford's accuſation is to be believed, it was the reſult of deſign. Conſidering the character of Crawford, however, it is much more likely that the alleged letters were fabrications of his own, the forgery and falſification of writings being then by no means uncommon. Indeed, it is with reluctance we are compelled to admit, that the Scotch noblemen of that period, with ſome few exceptions, were utterly devoid of moral principle, and provided they attained their object, cared little as to the means employed.

I have fwnð cautione nocht to recept my fone, nor anye of theife rebellis, onder the paine of ten thowfant merkis toties quoties, I will maift humilye praye your maieftie to direct ane warrant to your hienefs Priuue Counfell of this cowntrie, to fuspend the laft priuatlye obtinit commiffione, as your maieftie wilhawe me free of that fehaddowe, be the quhilk, my ondeferuit enemye crawis my lyiff and land; for vtherwayis the counfell, for the reverence they carye to that commiffione feynged by your hienefs, will nocht mell thairwith. Hoping for your maiefties woontit proteccion, nowe fa mekle the rather that I am fo onkyndlie, onnaturalye, and withowt deferwing, trwblit be that howfe, of the quhilk ewer of ald, nocht onknawin to your maieftie, in thair trowblis I have fa weill meritit, vtherwayis, yf I fand nocht securitie hier, I wilbe forcit, altho be fea, inrefpect of my aidge and inhabilitie, vpon my knees to beg the faving at your heichnefs felf. Thws maift humblye kifling your hienefs handis, and praying the Eternall lang to preferwe your maieftie and royall progenie, I reft ewer

Your facred Maiefties maift humble and obedient  
fubiect and fervitour,

EDZELL.

Edinburgh, 1609, penult Martij.

To the King his Maieftie.

LXXXVIII.—THE REVEREND PATRICK SYMSONE TO THE COMMISSIONERS  
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

APRIL 3, 1609.

RYCHT REVEREND BRETHRING IN CHRIST JESUS,

I dowbt nocht bot ze will haiwe my abfence from this present meitting excuifit, in regaird of my infirmetie, zitt I thocht meitt in this few lynis by wrett, to acquent your w[or]fchippis with the behaviour of my Lord Marques of Huntlie fence the counfall day, hauldin at Sterling the xxij. of Marche laft hypast, viz.; my Lord Marques fend for me, and confarrit in modeft and quyat maner with me anent the heidis of

religioun, contravertit betuix ws and the Romane kirk. Quhat I haiwe obtenit be conference, it is to fchort a tyme to mak ane perfyte rekening to 3our worfchippis. Always, the first fruittis 3e fall pleise to ressaïwe, subferyvit be his lordschippis handwrett, anent the heid of justification, and tak fuitche wyfe consideratioun thairanent, as 3our worfchippis fall think expedient, and instruct me by 3our returnit anfuere with 3our best advyfe. Forder, his lordschip hes beine content to heare the word preatchit be me in the castell of Sterling, his lady, childring, and ferwandis, also being present, except ane lady quhome infirmetie with wery neire approaching hir birth did excuse. Also, his lordschip is content (always licience being purchessit from his maiesteis honorable counsaile by 3our intercessioun) to cum downe to the towne of Sterling, and to heare the word preatchit thair, quhilk appeirandlie falbe greater proffeit to his lordschip, les panis till ws, and greitter contentment to the pepill. His lordschip also is in guid esperance, and hoip to haiwe the greittar mitigation of the feveretie and rigour to be vsit aganis his lordschip, the neirar that he approitchis to imbraice that weretie of Chrif, quhilk is professit in this land, and preatchit and allowit be the lawis of oure cuntrey; and in this poynte, I will intreate 3our worfchippis that thair may be sum lytill prorogatioun of tyme, until 3our worfchippis sie quhat farder fruittis may be reapit of this begun conference, and heiring of the word foirlaid. Nocht willing to truble 3our worfchippis with forder, committis 3ow and 3owre trawellis to the blissing of the Almightie. From Sterling, the thrid day of Apryle 1609.

3our brother to command in Chrif,

P. SYMSONE.

The articles subfcrib'd by my Lord Marques war penn'd be me, and subfcriu'd be his lordschip efter deliberatione.

To the ryght reverend in Chrif Iesus,  
the Commiffionaris of the Generall  
Affembly convenit at Edinburghe,  
&c. &c.

## LXXXIX.—THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL TO KING JAMES VI.

MAY 16, 1609.

MOST GRATIOUS AND SACRED SOUERANE,

The continuall and importune complayntis, fra tyme to tyme exhibited vnto ws by your maiesteis poore distreſſit ſubieſt, Thomas Hendirfoun, and the conſideratioun of the grite iniquitie committit vpoun him, vnder the name and authoritie of the King of Spayne (with whome your ſacred maieſtie at that tyme, and as yitt, holdeth firme amitie and freindſchip), doeth not a litle greue ws; for he being in his lauchfull trade of mercheandice, within the dominionis of the ſaid king, in the  
 \*  
 yeare of God, whair he expected not onlie a peceable commerce, trafficque, and intercoure of his goodis, bot ſuche other officious dewyities of kyndnes and freindſchip as ar vſuall to lauchfull trafficquaris: nocht-withſtanding, his ſchip and goodis wer ſeaſit vpoun be force, and him ſelfſ committed to the gallayes, quhill he wes conſtrained to ferve, and after foure yearis ſeruice vnder the ſaid king, his ſchip and moſt pairt of his equippage wer caſſin away and periſhed, to his vther miſerie and vndoing: wherin, althocht ſome determinatioun hes bene tane be the ſaid kingis officiaris, the value of his ſchip and goodis proportioned and fett down, the tymes of his ſeruice accompted and rated, and his whole cauſ promiſſed to be putt to ane end, and dew redres and ſatiffactioun accordingly to be maid, yitt litle or no redres is maid at all, bot ſuche ſchiſting delay is vſed in this buſynes, by thoſe who hes the charge thair of, as is not agreable with conſcience, equitie, nor juſtice, nor with the honnour, credite, and reputatioun of thair placeis, whairthrow your maieſteis poore ſubieſt, after lang attendance, without hoip or appeirance of redres, is returnit, having ſpent and conſumed vpoun the perſute of this buſynes, almuſche, and moir nor the valu of his ſchip and goodis extendit to, and

is now reduceit to extreame miserye, having the charge and burdyne of a wyffe and a nymerous familie, and houlhald of young childrene, whose caise is to be pityed, that being sometymes in goode rank, and amangs the cheif and best of this towne, and one of the first marcheant venturaris in this your maiesteis kingdome, is now deiecit and vndone, not having sufficient maintenance for his poore housholde and familie. Vpoun consideratioun whairof, we haif tane the bouldnes, in all reuerence to recommend him vnto your sacred maiestie, and humelie to intreate your heynes to caus propone this mater to the Spanishe ambassadour thair resident, laying befor him the grite iniquitie committed vpoun your maiesteis said subiect within the tyme of peace, the disdanefull schifiting of him fra hand to hand with continuall delayis, importing in effect, ane plane refusall and denyall of iustice, and that thairfoir the said ambassadour may be moved to tak some course, how your maiesteis distresfit subiect may be redressit, alsweele of his lossis, as of the chargeis and expensis sustenit be him, in persute thairof. Bot heirin submitting oure simple and waik opinioun, and what forder your maiestie thinkis meete to be done in this mater, vnto your heynes most rair and excellent iudgement, and humelie craving your maiesteis pardoun for our presumption, we end with oure humble and hairty prayeris to God, to preferue your heynes and your royall progenye in helth and felicitie. Frome your maiesteis burgh of Edinburgh, the xvi. day of May 1609.

Your Maiesteis most humble and obedyent  
subiectis and seruitoris,

AL. CANCELL<sup>s</sup>.

ROSS.

DOUMBAR.

JO. PRESTOUN.

HALYRUDHOUS.

J. TORPHECHIN.

WINTOUN.

PERTHE.

To the King his most sacred and excellent  
Maiestie, &c. &c.



## XC.—WILLIAM FULLARTOUN OF THAT ILK TO KING JAMES VI.

MOST GRACIOUS AND SACRED SOUERAYNE,

The confortable remembrance and experience of your maiesteis most gracious fauour at all tymes towardis me, and the consideratioun of your sacred maiesteis naturall inclinatioun and religious dispositioun to abhor and detest iniquitie and wrong, in all degreis and rankes of personnes, hes maid me your humble and distrest subiect, bauld in this my calamitie, to have my recourse vnto your sacred maiestie, and in all submissioun and humilitie to crave your maiesteis protectioun aganis the malice and iniurie of my Lord Erle of Craufurde, who, being vnmmyndfull of the mony guid offices done be me to his vmquhile father, in whose service I spent about fourtie 3eiris of my aige, besyd mony guid offices and service done be me to him self, baith befor his fatheris deceise and senfyne,\* lykas I instantlie stand ingadged for gryt sowmes of money as cautioner for him, and sowmes of money of my awin particularlie lent to him, 3itt he hes, without ony cause or occasioun, confaved so heigh a displeasour aganis me, as no thing can content him bot my lyfe, whiche he hes socht at the vttermoost of his possibilitie; lyke as now laitlie in this last moneth of October, I being ryding out of your maiesteis toun of Dundie, in peceable and quyet maner, luyking for no harme, he, accompanied with the number of twenty horse with hagbuittis, pistollettis, and swordis, sett on me, chaiffit and perfewit me to the said toun, and throch the toun to the mercat cros, schott and dischairgit pistollettis at me, and missing me, hes schott ane gentill man callit Gedeon Guthrie, in the body, and the bullet stikking in his bodie, and can not be gottin out as 3it, to the gryt parrell of his lyfe, swa that thair is no residence for me

\* David, tenth Earl of Crawford, died 22d November 1607, and was succeeded by his son, David, the eleventh Earl, one of the most unprincipled noblemen of his time (see pages 161, 162), who dying in 1621, the earldom devolved on Henry, the next heir-male.

at my awin home, nor in na pairt of the cuntrie, bot with the extreame hazerd and perrell of my lyfe. In confideratioun whairof, I moft humble befeik your facred maieftie to recommend my diftreft eftait and conditioun to the lordis of your maiefties Previe Counfale, and fpecialie to my Lord Chancellor, willing thame to tak fuche ordour thairin as in furetie I may inioy the benefeit of our maiefties peax, and be fecured from the malice and iniurie of the faid Erle of Craufurde, and incaife I can not find fufficient furetie heir, I will be compellit now, in my auld aige, to repair toward your facred maieftie for my releif. And fua, humelie craving pardoun of your facred maieftie for this my prefumptioun, and with my humble prayeris vnto God, recommending your facred maieftie, with all your royall progenie, vnto his devyne and fatherlie proteccioun, I reft for euer

Your Maiefties moft humble and obedient  
fubiect and fervitour,

WM. FULLARTOUN  
Of that Ilk.

[No date.]

To the King his moft facred and  
excellent Maieftie.

XCI.—THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE TO KING JAMES VI.

JULY 5, 1609.

MAIST SACRED SOUERANE,

I have noe forder for the prefent to aduerteis your highnes concerning the eftait of this your majesties kingdome, bot that this laft

counfall daye, the 6 of this monethe, the Erle of Ergyle caussed present the heades of twa notable malefactours in the Hiellands, whoe had done manye ewill turnes and wrangis thir yeares bygayne. I spair to truble yior highnes with thair onpleasand, onworthie, and ongodlie naymes, bot I have written the same to Sir Alexander Hays. I think my selfe also bound in dewtie to testifie to your majestie the great contentment and satisfactioun your highnes twa chaplaynes, Doctour Goodwin and Doctour Milwaird, hes gevin to all this cuntrie in thair doctrine, boithe in learning, eloquence, and godlines. Wee may weill all commend and admire thame, bot wee have ower few to follow or imitate thame. Alwayes we have all obligatioun of thankes vnto yior sacred majestie, for directting at tymes sic of yior ferwands heir to latt yior highnes subiects in this kingdome (who leives and professis that same estaitt and lyiff) haiff some taiste and essaye what course thaj sould follow, what ground thaj sould kepe, and how thaj sould discharge thair dewtie best in thair vocatioun; for I feir indeid thair be toe manye off ours heir that braggs toe mutche of thair vocatioun, and knowes toe lytle what belongs thairtoe. It may be feyne your maist gracious majestie omittis naa convenient moyen to draw and allure thame to the richt waye.

I have red owir, and pervfed yior faered majesties booke laitlie come to licht,\* and worthie of ewirlasting licht, all wisdome, all doctrine, all courtesie, all godlines, policie, and ciuilitie, sehynes in the same.

I remember it is abowe 25 yeares since I concludit ane epigrame vnto yior sacred majestie, with this distitche, when yior highnes was than beginning with your poesies,

Maecte animo, Rex, ista tuum genus, ista decebat  
Laus, famam gestis quærere, et ingenijs.

I entered than, being young my selfe, in that opinioun off yior maiesties valour be theese premisses of your tender spreit, whereoff I hawe parfawed fenfyne sic strenthe and vigour aryse, boithe in actioun and speculation,

\* Could this book be "Triplici nodo, triplex cuneus: Or an Apologie for the Oath of Allegiance," &c. of which the first edition appeared in 1607, and the second in 1609?

as I am to my great contentment confermed in my awin poeticall diuination, and hopes in my auld dayes to onderstand the haill world shall admire and reverence the fame. Sua, praying the Eternall God lang to preferwe yior maiestie in all healthe and prosperitie, I end this present with the maist humbill kifs of yior facred hand, continowing still to my lyfes end

Your maist facred Maiefties maist humbill  
and obedient subject and feruitour,

DUNFERMELJNE.

Edinburght, 8th Julij 1609.

XCH.—JANE STEWART TO KING JAMES VI.

AUGUST 3, 1609.

SIR,

I humblie crawes 3our maiestie gracious fauour and pardoun, that I haif tane the bauldnes to lament my hard estait, having my loving husband tane frome me, and left with tuelf bairnes, lyttill rent to leiwe vpone, and burdenit with gret debt, that it may pleis 3our maiestie to remember of my umquhile husbandis faithfull seruice wnto 3our maiestie, and of 3our gracious countenance toward me at all tymes. It pleast 3our maiestie to be euer fauorabill wnto my husband, and to releue him of the debt contractit for my brother, quhilk releyuit no debt of his awin, bot left him in debt boith in Ingland and Scotland. Sir, I haif 3oung weimen redly to marie, and 3our maiesteis seruant my douchter, Margratt, is marreit not without ane burden to me and my fone. Humblie recommending my estait wnto 3our maiesteis gracious fauour and helpe, and 3our guid anfuair, quhairin my onely confort restis vnder God : maist

humblic kyffing your maieſteis hand, I tak my leiſſ, praying the Eternall  
to grant your maieſtie monye happie and long dayis,

Be your Maieſteis maiſt humble and obedient  
ſervand,

JAIN STEWART.

Pitcarlye, the 3d of Auguſt 1609.

To the Kingis moſt excellent Maieſtie  
of Gret Brytane.

XCHIL.—THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE TO KING JAMES VI.

AUGUST 12, 1609.

MAIST SACRED SOUERANE,

It pleaſed your majeſtie, be your prencelie and fauorable letter,  
to recommend vnto me to concurre with the Erle of Doumbar in ſetting  
furthe off your highnes ſervice in this kingdome in all ſic directiouns as  
your maieſtie had gevin to the ſaid Erle, quhill gevis me the occaſioun  
to tak the bauldnes to writte thir few lynes vnto your maiſt gracious  
maieſtie at this tyme. Your highnes directiounes firſt to the convention  
haldin in Januar laſt, nixt to our laſt ſeſſioun of parliament, and dyvers  
tymes to your ſecreit counfall, war ſwa wyſe, ſwa worthie, and ſwa eu-  
dentlie ſett down for the weill and wealth of this eſtatt, as nather myne  
nor naa particular mannis concurſe could be requiſite to aduance or pro-  
cure the ſame to be imbraiced. Naa good ſubieſt, nor weill affected to  
his cuntry, could vtherwyſe doe, nor acknowledge himſelfe in hiecheſt  
degrie obliſhed vnto your maieſtie for your prencelie cair, in ſatling ſwa  
good ordours and policie amongs ws. To this joyned the ſaid Earle of  
Doumbar, his dexteritie in vſing the ſaidis directiounes, in gewing all  
honeſt men dew ſatiffactioun in all ſic doubtis as micht aryſe concerning  
the ſaidis directiounes, and alwayes making all men cleirlye reſolved of  
your ſacred maieſteis conſtant, continowall, intere, and zealous affectioun

to the weele of this kingdome, and to ewirie man in particular, according to his rank, merites, and plaice, maide me werie lytle adoe, and my burding werie licht in your maieftis service at this tyme, and far inferiour to sic notice and acknowledgement as hes pleased your maieftie geive me be your letter for my goodwill, in studeing to bring your prencelie and royall desseyngs to dew successe and accomplisshement.

Besides all other notable good service, whilk this noble man, the Erle of Doumbar, hes done vnto your maieftie, my dewtie in my plaice vnder your highnes heir bindes me to signifie this vnto yow, that he hes had speciall cair to reprefs, baithe in the incountrie and on the Bordours, the infolence of all the proud bangifters, oppreffours, and nembroithis,\* but regaird or respect to ony of thame, hes purged the Bordours of all the cheiffest malefactouris, rubbars, and brigantis as war wount to regnne and triumphe thair, als clein, and be als great wifdome and policie as Hercules sometymes is written to hawe purged Augeas, the king of Elide his efcuries, and be the cutting aff be the sword of justice, and be your maieftis authoritie and lawis, the Laird of Tynwell, Maxwell, findrie Douglassis, Jhonestounes, Jardanis, Armestrangis, Betifounes, and sic others magni nominis luces in that brokin pairtis, hes randered all theese wayes and passages betuix your maiefties kingdomes of Scotland and Ingland als free and peciable, as is recorded Phoebus in auld tymes maide frie and oppen the wayes to his awin oracle in Delphos, and to his pythicque playes and ceremonyes be the destruccioun of Phorbas and his Phlegiens, all theiwis, voleurs, bandstiers, and throat cutters. These pairtis ar now, I may assure yior majestie, als lawfull, als peciable, and als quyet, as anye pairt in any ciuill kingdome of Christiantie.

All this is done quyetlie, suddanlie, and in schort spaice, but anye harme, truble, hazaird, or greiff to onye good subiect. All is done in your sacred maieftis nayme and authoritie: all be your prencelie comandement and instructioun. Baithe he and the haill kingdome yeildis vnto yior maieftie continowallie, infinit thankis and praise thairfoir. As he is, and continowallie professis to be, your majesties serwand, and your

\* Nimrods? probably meant to designate moss-troopers.

creature, his actiounes ar all yiouris : the effects, the praise, the consequence thairof, ar to redound to your sacred majestie, as all the waters, baith the great and finall, returnis to the great ocean sea.

In the incountrie, where occasioun hes bene presented of riotts or offences in any personnes esteymed of the misfrewlie or bangifter kynd of peple, as we call thame ; as Threafaure, he has fwa pwneist and wfed the maist pairt of thame, as I hope shall breid ws all heir great ease for a lang whylle ; for I think sic Centaures, sic Gerionis, sic Bufyris of Egypte, and sic Arithes, shall eschiew to come in sic a Hercules waye or daunger, wha, be yiour majesties strenthe and wise directioun, can decyfre and goe beyond all thair craft and subtiliteis, and can contemne and owirthrow all thair wayne boast and pride.

All this I doubt not bot your maist gracious majestie hes bene informed of mair particulerlie at feuerall tymes be yiour ordinair secretarie, Sir Alexander Haye, whometo all is ewir vrittin particularlie, in all our proceedings in counfall, and in all others affairs of importance in this kingdome.

This I hawe thocht necessair to writte, onlie to testifie vnto your maiestie what praise and honour it is to yiow, and what eident demonstratioun of your royall wisdom the choyse and employment of sic ane officear and instrument, in sic royall charges ; wha hes the witt to consawe, the cair, ingyne, and moderatioun to conwoye, joyned with the curage, moeyn, and valour to execute and performe the same. This, in all humilitie taking my leive, with a kifs of your royall and sacred hand, and praying the Eternall for your majesties continowance and daylie increfs in all prosperitie, rests for ewir

Your sacred Maiesties maist humbill and  
affectionat subjeēt and seruitour,

DUNFERMELYNE.\*

Edenburgh, 12th Augustj 1609.

\* This letter is inimitable, and must have suited the fancy of the King exactly. The gross flattery and superabundance of classical allusion would be equally palatable. No wonder that Lord Dunfermline was a favourite.

## XCIV.—THE EARL OF ANGUS TO KING JAMES VI.

OCTOBER 30, [1609?]

PLEIS YOUR SACRED MAIESTY,

At my laſt pairting from Scotland, the tyme containit in the charge was onlie xx dayes, viij. from the 18 of October to the 10 of November excluſiue, to paſſe out of your maieſties dominions in Scotland, ſo that I could not haue ſufficient tyme to eſtabliſh ſick ſolide ordour with my affaires as was requiſite for ſo lang abſence. Now, ſeing it hes pleaſet your hienes to grant me the benefite of my leauing during the reſt of my dayes, I will moſt humbly entreate your maieſty vpon my kneis, be this preſent, that I may haue licence to returne to Scotland for ſome fyue or ſax monethes only, vpon ſick conditions as your maieſty pleaſes till enioyne, that I may put ordour to the diſorderet eſtate of my leauing, whilk can not be done without my awen preference to my great loſſe, and is now all out of forme and ordour, and that I may giue my laſt gudnight to my contrey, familie, and friendes, for I am become now auld and feakly, and within ſchort tyme will be vnable to trauell. Gif it fall pleaſe your maieſtie to grant me this grace, of your princely clemency, the caution for my returne ſhall ſtand, as they ar alreddy obliged, and I will think my ſelfe bound in conſcience to pray daylie for your maieſties prosperous regne and royall poſterity. Thus, kiſſing, with all humility, your princely hand, I reſt now and euer

Your Maieſties moſt humble and faithfull  
ſubiect,

ERLL OF ANGUS.

Paris, the penult of October [1609?]



XCv.—OATH TENDERED TO THE MARQUIS OF HUNTLY AND THE  
EARL OF ERROL.

NOVEMBER 13 AND 17, 1609.

THE Oathe vnderwritten being offered to the Marques of Huntley and Erle of Erroll, the one vpoun the xiiij<sup>th</sup> of November, the other vpoun the xvij<sup>th</sup> of the fame moneth in this instant yeir of God, j<sup>m</sup> vi<sup>e</sup> and nyne yeiris ; and they haueing fullye resolued in there consciencis with every poynte of the fame, with all dew solemnitie (the holye Ewangell tuiched) humblye ypoun there kneis, in prefence of many noblemen, bishoppis, and vtheris of goode forte, did tak this oathe efterspecifict :—

1. As I acknowledge my self to be his maiesties naturallie borne subiect, befydes my innumerable obligationes to his perfoun, so do I, in the faith of a trew Christiane, protest and awowe to be evir trew and afauld to his maiestie and his posteritye, nevir to conceale the hairme of him and his estaite, and nevir to spaire the hazairdeing of lyfe and estaite in allist-ing his maiestie and his posteritye, so far as fall lye in my power, agains whatfoevir enemye, invaider or invasioun, ather domesticall or forrayne, vpoun whatfoevir quarrell or pretext of the invaider, or of the pretext or caus of invasioun, yea, though it wer for caus of religioun.

2. And therefor, I do in speciall confesse and protest, that if any warre fuld happin to fall outt betuix his maiestie and his succellouris and the Pope, or if any publick invasioun or privatt attempt fuld be executed agains his maiestie or his staite, aither by the Pope's directioun, advyise, assistance, or overflight, I am, in that caice, bounde, bothe in conscience and dewtye, to assiste his maiestie to the vtermoste of my power : Lyke-as, heirby I sweare and promise, in the faith of a trew Catholicke Chri-

tiane, so to do, notwithstanding whatsoever allwerementis, threatningis, or prohibitions of the Pope to the contrarye.

3. And in caise it shuld happen that the Pope shuld excommunicat his maiestie or his successours, and loue his subiectis from there fidelitie ; nevertheles I do not hold it anyways laughfull, ather for me, or any other of his maiesties subiectis, to give the Pope any obedience therein, or to swaue in the leaste jotte of our naturall dewtye and subiectioun vnto him.

4. For nather do I holde it laughfull for the Pope, or any person whatsoever that lives vpon the earth, to dethrone or depose kingis, or to loue there subiectis from there fidelitie, or anywaies to meddle with temporall authoritie of princes, notwithstanding any respect of religion or whatsoever other spirituall respect.

5. For I am persuaideit in my conscience, that kinges are the immediats lieutenantis of God vpon earthe, and that there calling is directlye from God, and therefore are subiect to none vnder God himself, nor bounde to give accompt of any poynte of there government to any vnder God.

Renunceing and disclaimeing with my hearte all that ambitious vsurpation of popes aboue the temporall authoritie of emperours and kinges ; vtterlye condemning alswell the doctrine as practise thereof. And of all these poyntes I am in my conscience persuaideit, without any sorte of æquiuocation, whiche doctrine I abhorre as the doctrine of lies : nather do I think that any pope can haue power to dispense with any manis conscience, in any of these former poyntes.

HUNTLYE.

ERROLL.

• Balfour observes in his *Annals*, pp. 33, 34, that in February 1610, these two Lords still remained in confinement ; “ for the King (as the truth was) thought that he could not preserve the publick peace better, then by keeping these birdes of prey so caged wpe.”

## XCVI.—GEORGE LORD GORDON TO KING JAMES VI.

MOST DREAD SOUERAINE,

Since it did please your maiestie, out of your gracious fauor, to call me to the attendanee heir on the princes seruice, which I hold on of the greatest pointes of all wordlie happines, in regarde of your maiesties good mynd towards me your maiesties vnworthie subiect and seruant: and finding some thortours in my stay, quhairat your maiestie no doubt will admire and few will creedit, I am in this, my forced necessitie, compelled to haue recours to that fontaine of your maiesties gracious fauor and protectione whiche I haue euer found, and still does expect at your maiesties hand. My father by all licklyhood seemes cairles of me, I dar say no farther, perhapes accompting me vnworthie of his regaird as beeng ane hæretic in his conceit; and zit no strait, nather aduersitie, fall diuert me from that impressiõ of Godes trew feare, the professiõ whairof, I hope, according to my promise made to your maiestie, to giue ane constant prooffe to my verie last breath. Prouisiõ I haue none els, and my remaining heir in this fort without money or means to defray creditours, besydes euident harme to myself, must neids in respect of my birth, be some impeachment to the honour of my natiue countrie. I haue communicat my iust greifs to my Lord Duc of Lennox, my uncle, and to your maiesties most worthie subiect the Erle of Dunbar, I am most desyrous to know your maiesties plesoure, whairunto without regaird of perrell or inconuenient I will euer conforme myself, only writting these lynes (crauing pardoun of your maiestie for this my presomption), to testifie your maiestie of my precent caice, quhiche, by the Duc of Lennox and the berar, may be segnified at more lenth. And wishing at God that I might

haue occasione to testifie my deuitfull affection with the pryce of my lyf, I humbly pray the Almichtie God euer to blis 3our maiestie with all happines, and I rest

3our Maiesties most humble subiect and  
feruitour,

GEORGE GORDOUNE.

[No date.]

XCVII.—ALEXANDER COLQUHOUN OF LUSS TO KING JAMES VI.

NOVEMBER 13, 1609.

MOST GRACIOUS SOVERAIGNE,

May it pleas 3our most sacred maiestie, I haue of tymes complained of the insolence and heauye oppressioun committed wpon my tennents and lands be the Clangregour, and haue beene forced to be silent this tyme bygaine, hoping that sometyme thair fould beine ane end thair of: Bot now finding myself disappointed, and thame entered to theire former courses, haue taine occasione to acquent 3our sacred maiestie thairwith, beseeking 3our maiestie to haue pitie and compassionne wpon ws 3our maiesties obedient subiectes, and remanent poire pepill quha sufferes, and to provid tymous remeid thairin; and that 3our maiestie may be the better informed in the particular, I haue acquent 3our maiesties secretare thairin, to quhois sufficiency referring the rest, and craveing pardoun for importuning 3our maiestie, I leive in all humanitie in 3our maiesties most sacred hands.

3our sacred Maiesties most humble and  
obedient subiect,

ALEXANDER COLQUHOUN  
off Luss.

Rosdo, the 13 of November 1609.

XCVIII.—THE INHABITANTS OF THE LATE BORDOURS OF SCOTLAND  
TO KING JAMES VI.\*

Thay that wrytts of the qualeteis of ane guid kyng compairs him to the fon, *qui non est alius pauperi, quam diuiti, sed omnibus communis*. Rycht so, most gracious souerane, 3e ar our fon, the beames of quhois fauour and luif heathe equallie ouerschaddouit 3our hienes hail realmes. Erasmus, *De Institutione Principis*, fayis, *Quid est aliud regnum, nisi magna familia? Quid rex, nisi plurimorum pater?* And, indeid, 3our maiestie, withe the eyis of 3our prudence, iustice, and benignetie, as ane cairfull maister of ane famelie, or rather as ane loowyng father, hes lookit narrowlie into the behaiour of those that inhabit euery part of 3our hienes realmes, bot especiallie to the behaiour of those that inhabits that part of 3our maiesteis realm of Northbritane, sumtym callit the Bordors, quhom 3our hienes hes bene thir dyuers 3eirs bygane sumtym threatnyng by iustice, sumtym alluryng by lenitie, to that dew obedience quhilk becomes trew and faithfull subiects: And to this effect, it pleased 3our hienes to gif command to your officers in those parts, to play the part of expert husband men, *qui uoxas frugibus plantas herbasque conuellere atque in totum extirpare solent*. Neuirtheles thay ar so far frome doing of thair deutie to God and 3our hienes, that all reuerence and feare of punishment set asyd, thay ar returnit (*vt canis ad vomitum*) to thair auld accostomet insolences and vicket lyf: quhairthrow wee, that ar of the most peacebill and obedient sort of subiects within those parts, leis at this hour in als greit feare of our lyfs and goods, as ewer we did at any tyme heertofoir, quhen grittest difobedience rang amangs ws. Quhairfoir we haue fend up thir our greifs to 3our most sacred maiestie, at this tyme, in all humilitie, beseikand 3our hienes to play the part of ane hol-some phyician to ws, *qui membrum putrefactum incidi atque in totum*

\* There is no date—it has consequently been placed at the end of the year 1609.

eradicari iubet, ne aliam corporis partem labefactare aut corrumpere possit. It heathe pleased your hienes to appoint the Erle of Dumbar to be grit commissiouner for repressing of the enormeteis of those people, quho, indeid, heathe bene ane faithfull executor of your hienes pleasour and will. Bot, as Cicero sayis, in Oratione pro Cluentio, thay ar lyk to the beasts of the feild, quæ fame dominante ad eum locum ubi aliquando pastæ sunt reuertuntur. For the lytill intermission of Justice Courts quhilk heathe bene synce his lordships departur and appearance of lenetie, hes maid tham so insolent, that thair is nothing quhilk thay dar not attempt. The deshonour of God, his word and ministrie baithe practiȝet; disobediens to your hienes lawis no falt; for the Erle of Dumbar (say thay) and his deput commissiouners will not intermeddle with ony maters, bot only withe new thifts. He that can rais fyr secrete lie and wknawin, fall not leif it wndon. Wyld incefts, adultereis, conuocations of the lieges, schutting and wearing of hagbuts, pistolets, and lances, dayly bludscheds, oppression, and disobedience in ciuill maters, nather ar nor hes bene punischit. Gif ony peacebill man feu ony of the clannes to the law for thair lands or goods, he is incontinent threatnit of his lyf, and gif he obtene decreit befor the ordinar judge, quho dar put the famyn to executione? for he dar not poynd for feir of gritter inconuenients: And as for hornynge, thair is no moir accompt maid of the going to the horne than to the aillbous; for quhen commissioun is obtenit to the gaird to tak the rebels (quhilk is our last refuge), Sir William Cranston refusis to execute the famyn, becaus it belangis not to his commissioun, and my Lord of Scone comes feildome to counsell with his gaird, for ather thay ar disperst throw the contrie, and said to be imployet in yther commissiouns, or ellis the haille foune contenit in the commissioun will not content my lord for his guidwill, and the gaird for thair expenss, or wtherways thay ar attending vpon his lordship and his priuat efferes; and gif at ony tyme ane commissioun be presentit to ony of the gaird, thay will not execute the famyn quhill his lordship be foirsene and gif tham his warrand, quhilk is moir accountet of and moir difficill to obtene than the counsells; and be this meanes, gif the rebell be his freind, or ane man quhome he fauours, his lordship is accusstomet to mak him aduerteifment

be his letter, that the gaird is to be directit aganes him. The brenches of clannes ar begun agane to renew ligges and bands amangs themselves, and to conuene in vnlauthfull maner in euery on of thair particulers. Gif diligent searche war maid throwche euery paroche, thair fuld be ane grit number fund of ydle people without ony calling, industrie, or lauthfull meanes to leif by, except it be vpon the blude of the pooreft and most obedient fort. Wthers, agane, that feames to be of the better fort, ar so full of pryd, invy, and malice, that, as Plutarche sayis, quod inter Agathallos et Acanthylides tantum est odium, vt si sanguis eorum immisceatur, continuo separent se rursus et dissiliant hinc inde. Thir men, etiamfi aliquando pro rerum vsu coniungantur, durat tamen odium naturale, in sik fort that gif four or fyue of tham conuene tham fells in ane aillhous, as thair custome is, thay fall not part without contention and bludschede. Sir, lat no man dissaue your maiestie, and say that the cuntrie is brocht to quyetnes and good ordour; for, as the Lorde leiuies, thair was not sik appearence of wuquyetnes, sik blud[schedes], nor sik stealling, synce your hienes happie going in England, as is [at this] present. It is not the execution of a few symple and poore men, sik as wa[s done] laillie baithe be the barrones of Nydidsaill and Galloway, quhen gritter . . . war ouersene, that will bring the contre to that conformetie your h[ienes] desyres: Araneorum telas corui perumpunt muscæ vero implicantur. Thay [war verie] blodie mouthet hands all thair tyme, and leiders of companeis of th . . . broken men, and as yet dreimes of nothyng bot of blude; thift and oppressiõ gois frie, sum of tham clemend to remissions, and never a partie satiifyit. Vthers alledgis thay haue gottin ane ouersyght at the ernesf fute of sum men thair freinds, and vthers agane ar seruants and dependers vpon [sum] of the deput commissioners, quhome thay imploy in sum seruice, as the phyician vis fel hienæ et phocæ coagulum aliasque pessimarum ferarum partes . . . of grit diseases. Thir sort of peopill ar not meit to leif in ane ciuil [common] wealthe, fed rostro ferreo, vt herbæ radicitus euelluntur a vinea . . . thair posteretie eradicandi sunt: for, coccitis pullus, as Plinius . . . leuerit cum sit nothus, tamen legitimos deuorat, vnaque matrem . . . skilfull musycian thinks it not sufficient, in cithara in vno ta . . . con-

centum efficere, fed vniuerſi percutiendi ſunt numeroſe et . . . . Euen fo we ar perſuadet, that it is not ʒour hienes pleaſour to pu[t ane or] tua of the clannes of thoſe parts to ane tryall, bot that euery one of tham, the hieft to the laweft, ſould be layed to the tuiſtſtane of juſtice. Agap[itus Dia-] conus, in ane treatiſe de Officio Regis, ſayis, vt ſolis partes, ſunt illuſtrare orbem, ſic principis virtus eſt egenorum miſereri; and the experience we haue had of ʒour hienes luif and pitie toward ʒour diſtreſſit ſubieſts, hes geuen full aſſurance to ws, that ʒour hienes will caus all the enormeteis of thoſe parts be repreſſit; and that frequent courtes be kept amangs ws, ager enim diu non proſciſſus ſylueſcit, ac paſſim innumeras vepres producit. The intermiſſion of juſtice courts, and appearance of lenetie, hes maid tham to put on thair old habits; for thay may be comparat to the adamant ſton, qui ſolo ſanguine maceratus frangitur, and man be viſit as the phyſician dois thois, qui crudo et indigeſto ſunt ſtomacho, quibus amarum prodeſt abyſynthium. Quhairfoir, we maiſt humblie entreat ʒour moſt ſacred maieſtie, that command be gewen to ʒour hienes officers, to aſſiſt ʒour poore and diſtreſſit ſubieſts in thoſe parts, allweill in thair ciuill as criminall aſtiones; and that thay play not the part of euill craftiſmen, qui ſemper relinquunt locum caſtigatiōi, vt legulet occasionem liti. And ſo, in all humeletie, we tak our leiſ, beſeikand the Allmyghtie God to grant ʒour maieſtie ane long, happie, and prosperous reingne ouer ws,

ʒour Maieſteis moſt humble and obedient ſubieſts,

THE INHABITANTS OF THE LAIT  
BORDERS OF SCOTLAND.\*

To the Kyngs moſt ſacred Maieſtie.

\* From the ſtyle of this interesting document, and the numerous Latin quotations, one might conjecture that it came from the pen of Lord Dunfermline.



## XCIX.—THE MARQUIS OF HUNTLY TO KING JAMES VI.

FEBRUARY 15, 1610.

PLEIS YOUR MOST SACRED MAIESTIE,

Sins my youngeſt 3eiris, neuer hauing beine in us to diſobey your ſacred maietiſ uill and directioun, in no temporall thing quhatſumewir, I haue nou tranſgreſſit thoſ limits for greater teſtimonie of my humble affectioun and obediens. Yea, I uill go nerray neir the hazart of my faull, befor I gif your ſacred maiestie any juſt occaſioun athaer of grudge or miſtruſt againis me: and gif I did utheruayis, I uar the moſt ingrait in the earth, conſidering be quhou monie obligatiouns I am det-bound to your ſacred maietiſ fauour towards me heirtofor, quhilk lyis neuer in my ſimple pouar till acquit, albeit I fuld uair the laſt drop of my blood in your ſacred maietiſ ſeruic in recompans. And ſeing my conformitie nou procedis moſt of my affectioun, I hoip for the forder fauour at your ſacred maietiſ hands, remitting me aluayis to your ſacred maietiſ wontit fauour and clemencie towards me, quhilk I fall euer pres to conferue by all humble deuotie of ſeruic, quhilk may ly in ane ſimple ſubiects pouar to performe, as I haue informit this berar, Sir Thomas Ker, my ſeruitour, to delait unto your ſacred maiestie at greater lenth, gif it uill pleis your ſacred maiestie till do him that honour as to heir him. Sua, eftir the kiſſing moſt humble of your ſacred maietiſ hand, I uill reſt

Your moſt ſacred maietiſ euer humble  
ſubiect and moſt affectionat ſeruitour  
to the deith,

HUNTLYE.

At Stirling Caſtell, this 15 of Februar 1610.

To the Kings moſt ſacred Maieſtie.

## C.—THE COUNTESS OF CRAWFURD TO KING JAMES VI.

FEBRUARY 17, 1610.

MOST GRACIOUS AND SACRED SOUERANE,

It will pleis your hienes, the grypt confort quhilk wthers diftreffit subiects haue fundin, hes now as on of thois embaldonit me to putt furth thois lynis of regraitts to your hienes wew, complening of the vniust difdanis and vnkynndlie aëtionis of my housband towards me, quha, since the tym of my vnquhill fathers deceis, following his will and leud affectionis, hes now repudeatt me, without all feir of God, your hienes and lauis; detenit me as ane captiue, in dander of my lyf, quhill at last is delyuerit be moyane of my freinds, and so now leuis without ayd of him, spoillid and defradit of both fuid and rayments: in the quhilk creueltie he sit contenuis, without your maiestie prouyd remeid, the quhilk I in all humilitie befeiks your hienes giue eir wnto in tym, that he in his vikittes being restranit, may in end tend to my confort, quhairon I rest, taking my liue in all humilitie, praying to blis your hienes with ane long lyf and ane prosperus regne,

Your Hienes most humbill seruitrice  
now and euer at all pouer,

JAENE COUNTES OF CRAWFURD.\*

Edinburgh, the xvii Februar 1610.

\* According to Stewart's (Lord Ochiltree) MS. Genealogical Collections, this lady was "Jean Kerr, daughter to Mark Lord Newbattle, and sister to Robert Earl of Lothian, and widow of John Lord Boyd." Of this marriage, Lord Ochiltree states there was one daughter, although, in Wood's Edition of Douglas, vol. i. p. 380, it is said that the Earl died without issue. The Countess, continues his Lordship, "he divorced, and she married Mr Thomas Hamilton, son to the Lord Amundale[?]. This Earl David died in the Castle of Edinburgh in prison, and was interred in the Abbey Church of Holyrood."—"He was confined for killing Walter Lindsay of Belgaves." Nisbet's Genealogical Collections, MS. Fac. Lib. page 51.

CL.—THE REVEREND JOHN HALL AND REVEREND PETER HEWAT  
TO KING JAMES VI.  
FEBRUARY 17, 1610.

PLEASE YOUR MAJESTIE,

We, having tane notice by your majesties secretaire, of some hard information given foorth against us, and com'd to your maiesties cares, as thought our speaches in pulpit had tended in any fort to the impugning of any of your maiesties lawfull direCTIONS, whilk course, as we haue ever bene loath and unwilling to follow, so, least we shuld ly under the burthing of this so untrue an report, we ar bold to present to your highnes, by this our humble letter, the trueth of this fame, having at greater lenght imparted to my lord secretarie all the circumstances of that mater. When signification was given of your majesties will and pleasure, anent anew cessation and time of vacancie in the winter session, it was so mistaken universally, that the common fort thinking it to proclame to them libertie and lowfenes, to the whilk they ar so prone, and the Papists and enemies of Gods trueth taking heirof occasion of insolent speaches, as thought encouraged to looke for the retorne of their former superstitious doing, we was forced in our sermons as to sett ourselves against the vanitie of the people, and labour to tak from the enemies this mater of their joy: so to cleir your maiesties honest and godly intention, being certified by my Lord Chancellor directing to us the baillies of this toun to that effect, that there was none other thing meant be your highnes, but to give relaxation to the lords of your maiesties session, at that season of the yeir; so that in meddling with this earand, we trust we have so caried ourselues with respect to your maiesties honor, that we haue ministrat no just occasion of offence. And gif the contrair shalbe alledged or qualified be any in quibatsoever particular speache, we dout not bot our answer shall render contentment: and we know that your maiestie has never bene in

ufe to condemne unheard. Whereas your maiestie hes likewise bene advertised of sum unreverent and impertinent speaches used in publick prayer concerning your maiestie by certane of the brethren of this presbyterie, we can assure your maiestie that, to our knowledge and hearing, there is no such disorder, whereof, gif any shalbe found culpable, your maiestie may perswade yourself he shall not escape convenient censure, as we willbe answerable to your hienes, under whose wings we enjoy this liberty. The prooffe your maiestie hes had of our former proceeding, and knowledge your maiestie may tak of our haill cariage in our vocation by persons indifferent, and such as dois not hate us and our ministry both, we doubt not will move your maiestie to foster none evill conceit of us, but, in all accusations fallbe caried, leaue place to us to answer for ourselves. Thus, referring to my lord secretery a moir speciall report, with whome we haue bene plane in every thing, we humbly tak our leave, and commends your maiesties sacred person and estate to the blessing and protection of the Almighty.

Your Maiesties loving and obedient subjects,

JO. HALL.

Edinburgh, 17 Februar 1610.

MR P. HEWATT.

To the King his maist excellent Majestie.

CII.—WARRANT APPOINTING PETER ROLLOK OF PILTOUN ONE OF THE  
EXTRAORDINARY LORDS OF SESSION.

MAY 16, 1610.

AT Edinburgh, the sextene day of Maij, the yeir of God 1<sup>610</sup> vj<sup>e</sup> and ten yeiris, in presens of the lordis of counsaile, compeirit personallie Mr Petir Rollok of Piltoun, and presentit to the lordis this warrand directit from his maiestie to the chancellour, president and remanent

fenatouris of the College of Justice; off the quhilk the tenour followis.\* Richt trustie and weilbelouit counsling and counsalouris, we greit yow weill. Quhairas vsuallie in all tymes past since the institutioun of the College of Justice, the extraordinaris nevir exceidit the number of foure, quhill of lait yeiris, that vpoun ane speciale vrgent occasioun the fyft was addit, and now, efter the death of Mark Erle of Lowthiane, quha was ane extraordinare boith by place and voit of the sprituale fyde, we haveing nominat the rycht reuerend father in God the Archbischop of Glasgow for posselioun thairof, and heirwith haifing sent donn oure warrand vnto yow for reducing thame to the number of four, and certifeing oure pleasour concerning the other thrie, we do now vnderstand that by this ordour Mr Peter Rollok of Piltoun, ane of thame, quho of ane langtyme had bene ane extraordinare, was now disposselt, and knowing him to haif bene ane evir bent to oure seruice, and vtherwayes fit and apt for administratioun of justice, and being by ane lettre from all of yow speciallie recommendit vnto ws, and by yow intrettie maid to ws on his behalf, we haifing bene evir vnwilling that an old fervant, aganes quhome no exceptioun of ony offence could be takin, sould in his eagit yeiris carie ony note of the lose of oure fauour, as mycht both breid greif to himself and heaftin his gray hairis to the graif, and imprint in the opinioun of vtheris sum apprehensioun of his disgrace: Thaife ar thairfoir to will and requyre yow to receave and admit him agane to be ane of your extraordinaris, to haif place and voit in lyk maner as ony of the vther four hes. And, howevir, vpoun the respectis foirfaidis we ar forcit to vrge the number of fyve extraordinaris to sit with yow, yit it is not oure mynd that this fall be ony preparative heirefter for the continowing of the lyk number. But oure plesour is, that yow, by ane speciale act and statute, to be re-

\* See Melros Papers, vol. i. pp. 76, 279. Peter Rollok, who originally was brought up to the profession of the law, and who passed advocate previous to the year 1575, subsequently directed his views towards the church, and succeeded James Paton, Bishop of Dunkeld, in December 1585. He was admitted, on the 19th May 1596, an extraordinary Lord of Session, on the resignation of the Earl of Montrose. Of this office he was afterwards deprived, but restored by this warrant from the King. He retained his seat for about ten years, when he resigned it, and was succeeded, 1st February 1620, by Lord Erskine.

cordit in your buikis, declair that this admissioun of ane fyft extraordinare is onlie hac vice tantum; and that sua sone as ony of these places fall vaik in ony fort, that than none fall be put in the rounge of that voide place, and in no tyme thairefter the number to be encreased: for doing quhair of these presentis fall be vnto yow warrant: and in so far as it is requyrit that enerie extraordinare be one of oure counsale, and the said Mr Petir being none of that number, we haif, tharfor, out of our prerogative royall, dispenfit thairwith, inhabling him in all respectis to enjoy his place, as gif he war ane of our counsale; and so we bid yow fairweill. From our court of Quhythall, the fyft of Apryle 1610; as the said lettre, signet with his maiesteis hand and superferiptioun, proportis. Quhilk being consideret be the saidis lordis, they fand his maiesteis desyr thairin contenit verie reasonable, and according thairto hes admittit and ressauid the said Mr Peter Rollok in ane of the extraordinare Lordis of Sessioun, and gevis and grantis to him all the priuilegis, immunitis, and digniteis, pertaining to the said extraordinare place, and quhilk hes bene bruikit be ony vther extraordinare Lord of Sessioun at ony tyme of befor: and the said Mr Peter Rollok being personallie present, maid faith that he fould leillalie and trewlie exerce the said office, and minister iustice thairin to all oure fouerane lordis liegis, and to obserue the actis and statutis of the sessioun, and thairvpoun askit instrumentis. Extractum de libro actorum per me dominum Georgium Hay de Nethirliff, militem, clericum rotulorum registri ac consilii sancti domini nostri regis, sub meis signo et subscriptione manualibus,

GEORGIUS HAY, *Clericus Registri.*

## CHIL.—THE MARQUIS OF HUNTLY TO KING JAMES VI.

JUNE 18, [1610?]

PLEIS 5OUR MOST SACRED MAIESTIE,

Having euer, in all my greatest trubils, miseris, and aduerfitis past, fund 5our sacred maiestie my onlie gracious protecteur, saugard, and refuge, now I am forcit most humble to regrait my present hard estait, fins nou, far aganis my expectatioun, all 5our sacred maiestis lettres uretin fauorable for my delyuerans, I find thaeme thrawin to contrar effect, be the malice of thaes quha ondeferuidlie haitis me, and thair greter yre apperis that onie spunk of 5our sacred maiesteis gracious fauour fuld 5it seime to remaine towards me: for I haning, according to 5our sacred maiestis directioun, in presens of the Chancellor and the Erle of Dumbar, and sum of the bishops and ministrie, not onlie ratifiit my subscription of the heidis it pleit 5our sacred maiestie to direct unto me, bot allweill in euerie point, particularlie in thair presens, approuit the same, 5it nothing uald satisfie, except I uald both fuer and communicat: sua nou, Sir, I haue my onlie refuge, sen reason will not be hard be thaem, unto 5our sacred maiestis fauorable clemencie, quhilk I haue euer fund more towards me than ane thousand of my lyuis can repay. Pleis 5our sacred maiestie to call to memorie, that this 3eir past, I was informit that my going to sermons wald gife 5our sacred maiestie satisfactioun, quhilk I obeyit: Secondlie, the bishop of Orkney presentit unto me the oth of alledgens from 5our sacred maiestie, quhilk I willinglie performit with all affection, as himself testifiit thereftir. 5it this not fullsifing, I haue at last, for 5our sacred maiestis forther satisfactioun, subferyuit the heids of religioun that it pleit 5our sacred maiestie to direct unto me. Giff all this cannot fullis to procur me libertie to sum of my housis, I knau not quhat restis till me to do, bot onlie, as I haue euer done heirtosor, to submitt my self in all humilitie to 5our sacred maiestis good plefour and will: and I will humble beseik 5our sacred maiestie to grant one of thir thre

petitiouns : Athaer libertie, as was condiscended be your sacred maiestis former lettre, to go till fume of my housis, or than that fauour as to remaine in my auin chargis besyd your sacred maiestie, that I micht haue that contentment as to fe your sacred maiestis perfoun ainis in the half 3eir at left, quhar I fall conform my self to your sacred maiestis will and directioun, in all points. Gif non of thir satisfiis, that it will pleis your sacred maiestie to grant me licens, as the Erle of Angus hes alredie gottin, to pas out of the contrey, and my wyff with me, with securitie of our liuingis, quhar ue fall euer attend your sacred maiestis fauorable recalling quhanfoeuer it fall pleis your sacred maiestie to think the tyme proper. Sua, in thir and in all uthir thingis, as it fall pleis your sacred maiestie to inioine to me, euer offering my humble obediens, efter the kissing most humble of your most sacred maiestis hand, I will rest

Your most sacred Maiestis humble subiect  
and most affectionat seruiteur, to my  
lyuis end,

HUNTLYE.

At Stirling Castell, this xvij. of  
Junj [1610 ?]\*

To the Kyngs most sacred Maiestie.

\* This letter has no date. Assuming the oath to be that taken on the 13th and 17th of November 1609, it may probably be assigned to the following year. The Marquis appears subsequently to have been less molested by the clergy, and latterly was sworn in a Privy Councillor. Balfour says, vol. ii. p. 64. "This 27 of February [1617] George Marquis of Huntley was admitted and sworne a priuey counsellor, conforme to the order."



## CIV.—WARRANT BY JAMES VI. IN FAVOUR OF THE EARL OF ANGUS.

[1610?]

WHEREAS the French Ambassadour, in the name of his maiestie the young king,\* and the quein his mother, hath made most earnest suite vnto vs on the behalfe of the Earle of Angus, to graunt vnto him such assurance of his estate as the lawes of that our kingdome could affoorde : And seeing it was neuer our intention that hee should be more hardly dealte withall then the Marquis of Huntley, or the Earle of Errole (whose obtinacy in their religioun is no lesse than his), and seeing that their livings are putte to a pointe for their owne benefite, and his only of the thrie remaineth yet vsfettled : We haue thought good, by these presentes, to require you not only to take like order with his estate as hath bein taken with those of the other two, and to cause a signatour for that effect be sent vnto vs ; but likewise, if any difficulty do occurre which may any way hinder the same, that you eyther by your selues take it away, or then adwertise vs, that wee may determine therein according as wee shall see cause ; and willing this to be done with all conuenient expedition, we, &c.†

## CV.—JAMES VI. TO THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL.

JULY 6, 1610.

THE bearer heirof, Sufama Declony, the wyife of Adrian Vanfon, sumtyme our painter, hath diuers tymes importuned ws with

\* Louis XIII.

† This and the following document are merely original drafts.

petitionis, desyryng payment of debtes dew to hir said late husband, alfeuell for wages as work done at our commandement: and becaus we ar willing to give hir all dew satisfactioun (and yett are ignorant what fomme and vpoun what ground thee craveth), we haue by these presentis thocht good to will and requyre you particularly to enquire what is dew vnto her, and with all convenient expeditioun to certifie ws, vnder your hands, how muche we do iustlie ow hir, to the intent that we, so certified, may tak suche farder course for her satisfactioun as falbe most agreable to reafone; and not doubting of your care heirin, we bid you fairweill. From our Court at Whitehall, the 6 of July 1610.

To the Counsell.

CVI.—THE EARL OF GLENCAIRN TO KING JAMES VI.

PLEASE YOUR MOIST SACREID MAIESTEY,

I am forej fra my hart, that I am contraynitt to falsche your maiestey, now in my awild age, with my unwordey particularis heir aganis my awin, cumen of my loynis, zett, remembering ewer your maiesteis moist gratiowse contenance to me, I haif tane the bawildnefs to presume the famen. It is trew that my eldest sonne,\* being that thing erthely I moist respectitt and confiditt into, and thowght he fould haif bene my greatest helpe, to the weill of the rest of my scheeldering (by my expectatiowne and gud will), he mareitt him self, to my greitt grewe and his motheris, and to the losse and hurtt of my howse; and yet, mowitt be my frendis, and the cair I haid to the standing of my housse, I remittitt that owirfycht in him wpon hoipe in tymes to cumme he fould haif kythitt mair obedyence, bot all in waine. Bot now he rynis feike ane malytiowse cowerse aganis me, that he perallis my credeitt and honour in feike forme, that I am laythe to expresse the famen be wrytt, leift I fould ower

\* William Lord Kilmaurs "married Katharine, daughter to Mark Ker, Lord Newbottle." Stewart's MS. Collections, Advocates' Library.

mosche fache 3owr maiestie; and therfor I haif desyritt 3owr maieftis  
 fecretar heir to delayte the haill circumeftancis betuix him and me att  
 lenthe to 3owr maiestie, moift humblie crawing 3owr maieftis gratiowfe  
 fawour and contenance to me now in my awild age, nocht to be croffitt  
 with my awin bowellis, bot to haif commandymnt of my awin, fwa longe  
 as I am to lewe in this pilgrymage, and that I may lewe behynd me the  
 memorej of ane howffe to ferwe 3owr maieftiej and 3owris. I can do no  
 more, bott I fall ewer remane 3owr moift facreid maieftis ewer to ferwe,  
 to the last brethe, with als willing and trew ane hartt, as falbe in all  
 3owr maieftis domynownis. And fwa, humblie crawing 3owr maieftis  
 pardowne for this my ewill wrytt and facheowffe lettir, humbill ferwiec  
 rememberitt to 3owr moift facreid maieftiej, I pray the Lord ewer to re-  
 mane with 3owr maiestie, and to gif 3owr maiestie longe lyf and gud  
 hailthe, with profeperowffe fukefesse, I rest

3owris moift facreid Maieftis moift humbill and  
 obedyentt fubieect, ewer redie, in all humillitie,  
 to ferwe,

GLENCAIRNE.

[No date.]

To his moift facreid Maieftie.

CVII.—THE EARLS OF DUNFERMLINE AND DUNBAR TO KING JAMES VI.

JULY 27, 1610.

MOST GRATIOUS AND SACRED SOUERANE,

Vpoun aduertifment gevin to ws that some pirott schippis  
 had bene fene in the mouthe of this firth, and the same fecundit by the

complaintis of a grite many of your maieſteis ſubiectis, bothe in the weſt coaſt and heir on the eaſt, of the vnquietnes and haſaird of paſſage by reaſoun of the frequencie of Inglishe pirottis on the ſea, and ſpeciallie of oue of Caithnes, who, in his paſſing home, wes robde of all that he had, and bothe by him and by the repoir of otheris who had mett ſome of thoſe pirottis on the ſea, being certified that thay wer gone towardis the Orkney Ylandis, we being moved and grevit with the complaint of your maieſteis poore people, and being loathe to impeſhe your maieſteis vtheris weyghtie affairis with the aduertiment thair of, whill we had done ſome thing thairin oure ſellis, and wiſheing that in a mater of this qualitie (admitting hardlie ony delay, wherin the omitting of the preſent occaſion nicht doe muche harme), your maieſtie ſould rather find vs cairfull of our dewytie then otherwayes remiſe or negligent, we did heirupoun preſentlie direct three of the beſt ſchippis at that tyme within the harbour of Leyth, weele mannit, and furniſſit with all weirlyke prouiſioun (your maieſteis awne ſchip at that tyme not being arryved heir), and having gevin vnto thame expreſ direction and charge to mak ſearche and to follow quhidder ſoeuir thay could apprehend thoſe pirottis; and our ſchippis having mett with thame ypoun the coaſt of the mayne land of Orkney, thay having twa faillis, the one a ſchip aboue 200, the other a choiſe pinnace of 100, efter a bloodie conflict, in whiche twa of oure men wer killed and ſindrie hurte, the pinnace being excellent in failleing, maid choiſe rather by flight to faiſe hirſelf then by ony langer ſtay to abyde the haſaird of taking; and albeit ſcho wes followed for a ſpace, yitt did ſcho ſtill gayne ground, wherupoun hir perſute being left of, the other grite ſchip in the meane quhyle being boordit, wes brought away by oure ſchippis, and in hir wer takin to the number of threttie able men, befydis ſome few priſonnaris whome theſe pirottis did keepe aboorde, who, after they had bene dewlie and ſeuerall tymes examined, at laſt all theſe threttie wer putt to thair tryall and found guiltye; of whiche number xxvij ar execute and putt to death, of whome there wer twa captaines, by name Captaine Perkynis and Captaine Randall. The other three ar repryvit and continewit vntill ſuche tyme as your maieſteis pleaſour be knowne, in regairde that thair is hoip by thair farder examinatioun, to

learne oute some thingis tutecheing the estate. We haif alreddy discoverit some mater of abuse, hoiping to finde more oute, wherby this grite increase of piracye hathe bene by some, far aganis thair dewyteis to your maiestie, too muche fosterit and mantenit: bot of the particularis of the same, as vnwilling to committ thame to wryte, your maiestie falbe certified at lenth by your maiesteis secretarye of this kingdome, who is thortlie to mak his repair thither. In the mean quhyle, the personis of those men whose lyves ar spaired, falbe faillie kept and maid furthecomeand ather for forder examinationn heir, or vpoun knowlege of your maiesteis pleafour falbe broght thither to be tryed. Ther wer also mony pregnant presumptionis, that however these men now spairit wer deprehendit in the societie of the rest, that the same wes more by enforcement then by consent, whiche wes affirmed by the most parte of thame who wer executid. This company of pirottis did interteyne one whome thay did call thair persoun, for sayng of prayeris to thame twyfe a day, who, be-lyke ather wearyed of his cure, or fearing the ensewing distruction of his flocke, had foirfaken thame in Orknay, and prinellie conveying him selff over land, wes at lenth deferyed and deprehendit in the burgh of Dundee, and being broght hither, did so cleirly confes and gif evidence aganis the rest, and, being confronted, broght mony of thame to confession. Thair being heirwith some likliehooode that his stay with thame had bene by constraint, we haif heirupoun, in lyke soirt, continewit him frome being putt to tryale, vntill your maiesteis pleafour be knowne. We do vnderstand, by aduertisment from Orknay, that thair be some fyve or sax pirottis mo deprehendit, bot quhidder thay be of this company or not, it is vncertane. Alwayes we do expect thame by the first occasioun of ony schipping that dothe come frome thense; and since none of ws ar ignorant that by reasoun of aduertismentis not onlie frome all the cornaris of your maiesteis owne dominionis, bot alswa frome foreyne partis, your maiestie hes nevir almost ony intermissioun or respitt (your maiestie, by Godis providence, and to your subiectis vnspeakable happyness, being that grite oceane vnto whiche all revaris and brookis do rinne), as in dewytye we could not omitt to acquent your maiestie heirwith, so the feir of troubling your maiestie with too long a lettre, hathe

moved vs to refer the particular relation of all the incidentis in this busynes to a more proper occasioun. And concerning all fuche other directionis as it pleased your maiestie, ather by commiffioun sent be the Lord Burley, or by lettre writtin vnto ony of vs concerning the Marques Huntley, the Erll of Errole, or ony other mater worthie of the aduertising, your maiestie falbe certified of all these oure proceedingis by the secretarie at his repair to your maiestie. And so, praying God to blisse your maiestie with a lang, happy, and prosperous reigunn, we rest for ever

Your Maiesteis most humble and obedient subiectis  
and seruitouris,

DUNFERMELINE.  
DUNBAR.\*

Edinburgh, 27 July 1610.

To the King his most sacred and  
excellent Maiestie.

CVIII.—SIR ROBERT MELVILLE TO KING JAMES VI.

PLEIS YOUR MOST SACRED MAIESTIE,

Accept, in guid pairt, the willing affectioun of one of the eldest,  
althocht not the most abill, of your maiesteis fervandis and creatouris,

\* Lord Dunbar died a few months afterwards, and was succeeded in the management of the Scots business by John Murray, subsequently Viscount Annand and Earl of Annandale. The Earl's death is thus noticed by Calderwood:—"In the moneth of January (1611), the Earle of Dunbar departed this life at court, not without suspicione of poisons, because my Lord of Kinlosse, Lord of the Rolls, a Scottishman, placed in that office be the King at his going to England, had died a little before. Howsoever it was, the Earle was by death pulled down from the height of

quho for acquytin of the truſt it hes euer pleaſit your maieſtie to repois in me, I can nocht be ſilent at this tyme to congratulat to your maieſtie that poynt of your maieſteis felicitie, quhairwith God hes bliſſit you in the quyet, happie, and weil governed eſtait of this your maieſteis native and ancient kyngdome. The cauſis quhairoff, nixt your maieſteis moſt rair and princelie wofdome in directing fo wyfelie euerie thing tending to the whiterfall weil of ws all, I can not in my ſimpill judgment bot aferywe the fame to the fidelitie and cair of your maieſteis principall officiaris and fervandis, in quhome fo vorthely ye haif fatlit the burdeine of the affairis. For as to the Erle of Dumbar, quhois fidelitie and cair to the guid fortoun in the ſucces of thingis committit to him I know not quhilk to commend moſt, all that is in him being your maieſteis awin: his behaiour dois fo raweis all men, that his actiounes ar interpretit to be your inſpiratiounes, and the circumſtancis of thame flowing from the fame fontane: in my tyme, quhilk hes not beine ſehort in this ſtait, I haif not ſeine the lyke. The Chancellor, quhois vpbringing and painfull trauell hes maid him ane gret ſtatis man, being lykwayis directit by your maieſteis commandement, hes applyit his knowledge and lerning to fo profitable endis, to the honour, aduancement, and quyetnes of this eſtait, hes, nixt your maieſteis awin pairt, the prais of the bliſſit and happie conditioun quhairin the cuntrye ſtandis, quhilk, by your maieſteis abſence, was thocht to haif beine hard to pacifie. And, ſeing it fallis out fo happely in your maieſteis gret wofdome, that thay ar both preſent with your maieſtie, and willing to reſſaiff frome your awin mouth the guid acceptatioun of thair ſervice, quhilk is the greteſt honour and contentment they can haiff, and maiſt willing to obey your maieſteis directiounes in all tyme cuning, I haiff takin the bauldnes, maiſt humlie, to intrett

his honour, even when he was about to ſolemnize magnificently his daughter's marriage with the Lord Waldane: he purpoſed to celebrat St George's Day following at Berwick, where he had almoſt finiſhed a ſumptuous and glorious palace. But the curſe was executed upon him that was pronounced upon the building of Jericho; he was too buſie, and left nothing undone to overthrow the diſcipline of our church, and ſpeciallie at the Aſſembly holden the laſt ſummer at Glasgow; but none of his poſteritie enjoyeth a foot broad of land this day of his conqueiſt in Scotland. He ended his days in Whitehall, upon Wednesday, the penult of January." Calderwood MS. vol. xiv. p. 465. Advocates' Library.

your maieſtie, that feing their guid concurrence in accompliſhing your royall vill, hes bred your maieſtie the honour of this our happines and confort to all your ſubieſtis; that your maieſtie, according to your accuſtummmed clemencie, will tak that notice of their labouris that may incourage thame to continow, and to knyt thame togidder in their affection to your maieſteis ſervice, and to the weill of our native cuntry, as for monie guid courtiſ by your maieſteis princely direction ſo happely and wyſlie followed furthe to the guid liking of all men, quhilk being effectually done, your maieſtie may be richt aſſured that all thingis in their partis will ſucceed to your maieſteis contentment. For my ſelf, ſo far as my age and abilitie may ſerve, all falſe ſpent in your maieſteis ſervice; and quhair I find any thing amifs, I fall euer mak your maieſtie foirfeine; not doutting bot as your maieſtie hes euer accepted moir gratiouſlye of my waik endeouirs nor they war worthie, ſo your maieſtie will tak this my preſumptioun in guid part.

Humble taking my leif, kyſſing your maieſteis hand, I praye God grant your maieſtie ane happie and prosperous reing, in quhois gracious protection I commit your maieſtie.\*

Your Maieſteis maiſt humble and obedient ſubieſt  
and ſeruitour,

ROBERT MELVILL.

To the Kingis ſacred Maieſtie.

\* This letter is undated; but as Lord Dunbar is represented in life, and as he died in January 1611, it muſt have been written anterior to that period. Sir Robert Melville was frequently ambaffador to England. In January 1587, he was ſent to remonſtrate againſt the execution of Mary Queen of Scots. He was conſtituted, on 11th June 1594, an extraordinary Lord of Session, by the title of Murdocairnie, which office he reſigned in favour of his ſon Robert in 1601. Upon the 30th April 1616 he was created a peer by the title of Lord Melville of Monymail, by patent to him and the heirs-male of his body, whom failing, to the heirs-male of his elder brother John. His Lordſhip died in 1621, having attained the age of 94. He was the immediate elder brother of Sir James Melville of Halhill, author of thoſe valuable Memoirs, of which the firſt complete edition was ſome years ſince printed by the Bannatyne Club.



## CIX.—THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL TO KING JAMES VI.

MAY 3, 1611.

MOST GRATIOUS AND SACRED SOUERANE,

According to your maieſteis directioun, fend vnto ws, for trying of the diſpoſitioun and former maner of leving of James Johnneſtoun, priſonair in the tolbuthe of Edinburgh, who wes condemned to loſe his hand for ſchoiting of piſtollettis, we haif tane als exact ane tryall and examinatioun in that mater as poſſibillie we could, and (faulffing that particulair of piſtollettis) we do find no thing in his bipaſt behaviour and carriage, whilk may onywayes bring him within the compas or cenſure of law, he being acquate and clengeit of all vtheris crymis at that tyme when he was pannellit befor the Erll of Dunbar, and ſen his committing to the tolbuthe we haif not hard fo mutche as one complaynte aganis him, bot very grite ſoliftatioun maid for his libertie and releif. And ſo, remitting him to your maieſteis gratious and princelie confideratioun, and praying God to bliſſe your maieſtie with all happines and contentment, we reſt for ever

Your Maieſteis moſt humble and obedyent  
ſubicctis and ſeruitouris,

AL. CANCELL<sup>s</sup>.  
JO. PRESTOUN.  
SIR J. ARNOTE.

PERTH.  
CLERICUS REGISTR.

Edinburgh, the thrid of May 1611.

To the King his moſt ſacred and excellent  
Maieſtie.

## CX.—THE UNIVERSITY OF ST ANDREWS TO KING JAMES VI.

MAY 4, 1611.

SACRED SOUERANE,

May it please your most excellent majestie. The most reuerend father in God, your majesties most trustie counsellour the Archbithop of Sanctandroufs, our werie prudent chancellor, hauing informit vs, the Rector, Deanes of Faculties, and remanent Maisteris of your majesties Vniuersitie of Sanctandrous, hou cairful your maiestie is of the flourishing estait thairrof, particularlie of the dedicatioune of ane commoune Bibliotheque thairto, quhairby learning (throche bypast penurie of buikis sumquhat decaying) may be, to the benefit of the kirk and commoune-veil, refuscitat, and vee vithin this your majesties Vniuersitie, moir inhablit to your majesties seruice, ve can nocht vithout the blot of detestable ingratitude and inexcusable vndeutifulnes to your majestie, as our most grations and beneficent prince, bot vithe all humilitie of mynd and bodie, most hartlie thanke your majestie thairfoir; and, vith the lyk humilitie in houp to be hard, most earnestlie intreat your majestie to perfytylly profecute that particulare purpoise of liberalitie touardis vs; and, generallie, according to the laudable dispositioun of your majesties royal progenitoris of blissid memorie, to continue to the immortaltee of your majesties name, in aduancing be moiens and priualedges this your majesties principal and most renommed Vniuerstee vithin this realme. Thus, vithe permissioun, pre-fuming to assure your majestie of our most deutiful affection to your majesties seruice and furtherance thairrof, ather in kirk or commoune-veil, according to our pouer and vocatione, vee, frome the bottome of our hartis, vniformlie recommend your majesties royal perfonne and estait to the Almightie God, quho may blefs your majestie in this lyf vith a long



Your <sup>Platies</sup> most humble  
And obedient Servitors and  
Subjects

Master John seems Rector.

M<sup>r</sup> James martin-

M<sup>r</sup> David monypenny

M Robert Hoyle

~~M<sup>r</sup>~~ Robert Willeie M<sup>r</sup> George martin

M<sup>r</sup> John Jonston,

M<sup>r</sup> Patrick Melvill

Master John Hoyle. My friend James Law  
in the academy

Master Brace.

M<sup>r</sup> John Lemyer

M<sup>r</sup> Alex. Gindley

Master William Lambie

Master James Schell

M<sup>r</sup> Benjamin Davis





and prosperous raigne; and vith ane eternal and glorious in the lyf to cum.

Your Majesties most humble and obedient  
feruitoris and subjeëtis,

Maister JHONE WEMIS, Rector.

Mr JAMES MARTINE.

Mr DAVID MONYPENNIE.

Mr ROBERT WILKIE.

Mr JHONE JONSTON.

Mr PATRIK MALVILL.

PETER BRUCE.

Mr JA. WEMYSE.

Mr GEORGE MARTINE.

Maister JHONE STRANG.

Mr WM. MACDOWELL.

Mr ALEX<sup>r</sup>. HENDERSON.

Maister WILLIAM LAMBIE.

Mr ROBERT HOVYE.

Maister JAMES BLAIR.

Maister JAMES SCHEVEZ.

Mr HENDRIE DANSKEIN.

Sanctandrous, 4 Majj 1611.

CXL.—KING JAMES VI. TO SIR ARTHUR CHICHESTER.\*

SEPTEMBER 14, 1611.

JAMES R.

Right truſtie and welbeloued, wee greete yow well. The Lord Ochiltree,† a noble man of Scotland, of good deſert toward vs, being an

\* Sir Arthur Chichester, Lord Deputy of Ireland, who obtained considerable grants of land in the province of Ulster, and was created a peer of Ireland by the title of Lord Chichester of Belfast, 23d February 1612. He died without lawful issue, at London, 19th February 1624, when his estates, almost entirely derived from the old Irish families, passed to his brother, Sir Edward Chichester, who was created Viscount Chichester, 1st April 1625. From him the present Marquis of Donegal is lineally descended. The old barony of Chichester is extinct.

† Andrew, third Baron of Ochiltree. From a letter without date, addressed by him to James, he appears to have been involved in pecuniary difficulties in consequence of his employment in the Isles under his Majesty's order. He supplicates the King to order the council to audit and pass his accounts, so that he might be enabled to settle with his creditors. In conclusion, he entreats "your highnes for eschewing the present wraik and rwyne of my old house, who hath bene so long

vndertaker of a portion of the efcheated landes in Vlfter, and now going thether to fette himfelfe and his company on the landes of Montioy, for the eftimation we mak of him, wee haue thought fitte to accompany him with our lettres, whereby to let yow know that whatfoeuer fauour yow fhall do him, in furtherance of his well fetling in that place which he hath vndertaken, wee fhall take in kinde parte, as beftowed on a nobleman vnto whome wee with all goode fuccesse. Giuen at our mannour of Hauering, the xiiij<sup>th</sup> of September, in the eight yeare of our reigne of Greate Britayne, Fraunce, and Irland, and of Scotland the xlv<sup>th</sup>.

To our right truſtie and welbeloued Sir  
Arthur Chicheſter, Knight, our De-  
puty of our kingdome of Irland.

CXL.—THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE BURGHS TO KING JAMES VI.

TO HIS SACRED MAIESTIE,

The humbill Petitione of the Commiſſioneris for the Burrowghes  
of 50wr Maieſties Kingdome of Scotland, in the behalfe of the  
ſaid Burrowghes,

MAIST humblie beſeeching 50wr ſacred maieſtie as the onlie fontane,  
vnder God, of juſtice, and nixt vnto him, the velfpring of our happines,

loyall ſubjects and true ſervands," to order a payment to account. It is probable, as the King's Exchequer was not uſually overflowing with caſh, that Lord Ochiltree got the Irifh grants in payment of his claim. He was created an Irifh peer by the title of Lord Steuart, Baron of Caſtleſteuart, in the county of Tyrone, 7th November 1619. He died in 1632. His descendant and heir-male, Andrew Thomas Steuart, the ſixth Baron, was created, 20th December 1793, Viſcount, and 29th December 1800, Earl of Caſtleſteuart. Andrew Lord Ochiltree is ſaid to have reſigned his Scotifh honours in 1615, which were then conferred on Sir James Stewart of Killeith, in whoſe family the Barony became extinct. The Earl of Caſtleſteuart claimed, however, the Scotifh Barony; but the Houſe of Peers, 16th April 1793, decided that his vote, given as Lord Ochiltree, at the election of Scots peers, was a bad one.



feing we haif had acceffe vnto 3owr facred prefence, that it wold pleis 3owr maieftie, oll 3owr accuftomid fauour and clemenfie, to pardoune and forgill owir owirfichtt (and many mo 3owr maiefties faithfull and loyall fubieētis, quho ar wnder the fame fenfour with ws) in taking abuiſſ ten for the hundreith, contrar to 3owr maiefties aēt: the occatioune quhairof was, that the fame tuik newer plaice by executionne, it being now paſt fourteine or fyfteine 3eiris fence the inaētting of the fame, ſwa, that all perfounis of quhatſumewer rank, eſtait, or conditionne thay be of, hes takin thelf for the hundreith, quhilk was authorifed be decreitis of the Lordis of Seſſiounne, allowitt be the Loirdis of 3owr maiefties Exchaker to the ſawrer, controller, and wtheris: quhilkis warrandis our owirficht heth imbaldnit ws of the mener fort (ignorant of the lawis and mening thairof), to commit the lyk by imitationne, and not of contempt: alfo, the neceſſitie and ſkairfnes of mony,\* owir countrie not yeilding the lyk ſtoir as wtheris, and the neceſſitie of the adois of the countrie amangis owirfelwis and elifquhair, maid the fame moir tollerabill, ſuppoſing tollerance to be law. And feing this is the firſt fute of 3owr maiefties burrowis fence the vnſpicabill lois of 3owr maiefties happie prefence and aboid amangis ws, quhairby we haif loift all ſtrength and vigour, and ar becum as deid and rotin ſtokis, 3owr maiefties prefence being the fontane thatt did watter and refreche ws, we humble befeik 3owr maieftie to pardoune owir bygaine ignorance and owirfichtt anentt tuelf of the hundreth, and to none wtheris, promiffing all lawfull obedience in tymis cuming.

Nixt, that it wold pleis 3owr maieftie to diſchairge the exaētting or heichting of the cuſtomes of hering, cloth, hydys, ſkinis, and ſuch wther ſtapill waris of that kingdome, being the onlie waris quhich bringeth home gould, filwer, wyne, ſaltt, irne, and ſuch wther neceſſaris, by importing quhairof, 3owr maiefties cuſtomes ar inlairgid.

Thridlie, that it wald pleis 3owr ſacreitt maieftie the exaētting of cuſ-

\* Some interesting notices relative to the scarcity of coin in Scotland will be found in the Melros Papers.

tones for tranſporting of gudis in tyme bygaine, frome Ingland to Scotland.

Laſt, that it wold pleis ʒowr maieſtie to diſchairge the exacting of bul-yen for ony tred wfed within ʒowr heichnes dominionis, ſeing that ʒowr maieſteis awin coyne can not be conwertid into bulyon; and as we ewer heirtfoir hes beine moift willing and redy to ſacrifice owr lywis, and quhatſumewer we had befydis for ʒowr maieſteis honour and faſtie, ſo fall we ewer continow, with our moift dewot and hertlie prayeris to God, for ʒowr maieſteis proſperus and hapie regne.

CXIII.—W. WHEITFURDE TO JOHN MURRAY.

MAY 16, 1612. ? 620

RICHT HONORABIL.

I truſt your honour hes reſſaued my letter, whairin I did anſwer your laſt thatt cam to me in the ende of Marche, and ſchew yow your biſſines could nott be enditt with Mr Ro<sup>t</sup>. Henderſone, till Mr Thomas Hope\* his returne to the toun, who was then gone to Londwait. Yow ſalbe ſure in grace of God, att his returne, thatt biſſines ſalbe done as Mr Thomas ſall direct, as Mr Robert is moſt willing, wpon the ſicht of your laſt letter which I ſchew him, and expectes yow will tak ſay euir with Mathow Wilſone being thair now with yow, that he ſall quitt his poſſeſſioun of your myll and maynes, which is moſt fitting yow ſould do, Sir (ſavand your awin pleaſour and better judgment), for ſince he herd yow wer to beſtow itt wpon Mr Robert, he hes vttered a ſort of contrie clayme to itt, and grudged with Mr Robert for taking his kyndlie rowme, and ſoe far as I can learne, howſoewer yow may, Sir, mak uſe of him in wther ſerviſes, he is nott a fitt man thair to menage your rent, for he hes

\* Afterwards Sir Thomas Hope, Lord Advocate.

principall entries in thaes landes, be clayme of his kyndlie possellioun,\* as thaes peopill do esteame itt, and most credite with the rest of thatt fort, thatt he doeth no wther, bott be all menis stryue to keip thaes landes att the meifest rate he can, thoct he do itt cunninglie and covertlie. Befyd, I haue learned thatt he suffers thair of his nyctbouris to ineroache in the possellioun of some off your rowmes, who feik to keip thame be wther titillis then of your landes, and be tyme will bruike thame so; as, namelie, Rammerkaillis thrie darkis of meidow, and John Maxwell in Lochmaben, ane clofe of land. Itt may be thair be wtheris, I haue nott lerned, for I am a mere stranger thair, and that thir be bott mein thinges. Do, Sir, as yow please. I thoct it my dewtie so foone as I learned this muche, not to conceill itt. Yow may lykwayes, Sir, try how the fyfcheing of your loche is vsed; and when Robert Philip and Mathow is both thair with yow, yow may try, Sir, gif yow can fynd outt of thame, examining ather of thame apairt from the wther, who wer the instigaturis of thaes tenentis of youris, to present to his maiestie a complaynt of yow, and gif Mathow wes accessorie to itt.

The commissioners of the Middle Schyres ar verie cairfull in discharge of thair commissioun, hath apprehenditt a gritt many kept prifoners to this ensewing court, that doeth muche good for the quyetnes of the contrie, which in all liklihood er now, gif this course had nott prevented, bein in verie greatt disorder. Yow haue done, Sir, verie honorable in joyning your selff in this commissioun; and itt is grittunlie to your honour, and furtherance of your bislines in this contrie, this course in repreffing of insolenceis and villaneis thus proceids. Thair is one thing enlaiking, muche hinderfome to this service, that thair is no jayll in Annandaill. Itt is a worthie and memorabill work for yow, Sir, to bethink yourselff of the meines to help itt, and whairin nott the leist help of the quyetnes of this

\* Wilson seems to have been one of the kindly rentallers of the four townes of Lochmaben, who were said to have come in place of some favoured servants of Robert the Bruce, who had obtained their small possessions by a species of tenure unknown in any other case of heritage in Scotland, and whose representatives could not be removed by the Overlord, although possessing without charter or seisin. See *Case of Kindly Tenants of Lochmaben v. Viscount of Stormont*, Nov. 24, 1726. Morison, p. 15, 195.

contrie confites. Captane Jhonstoun and a number of his servandes, for a flaughter of the Laird of Wamfrayes brother, ar escaiped, and for wther cawfes ar cited to this court, and itt is thoct falbe fugitive. The captane hes putt Drumlangrig in trust of his estate, who hes taken the gift of his escheitt and lyfrent. Heir itt is thoct the captaine is att court. Giff he can mak meins for him himself, I doutt nott, Sir, yow will be his freind; bot gif things go werfe with him, a pairt of his estate he haldis of yow, whairoff yow may confidder whatt is fitting to be done. He embarked himself in the purchase of the fortie pund land of Corheid, quhairon the toun of Mossfeitt standis, which is one of the prettie thinges in this contrie. Gif the occasioun present that ather, Sir, yow may doo him good as his friend, or that none of his freindis can do him good, yow may accordinglie confidder. Thair is warning vsed in your name aganes the landes of Longboddum this yeir, which many conjecture this long tyme, hes holden of the Starr of Babylon; and so yow will do weill, Sir, to desyr your agent to prevent gif thei feik any new richt. Thus, entreitng your honouris pardon of this my boldnes, I commend yow and all your effairis to the blessing of God, and fall remane

Your Honouris most affectionatlie devoted  
in all service,

W. WHEITFURDE.

Moffet, Maij 16, 1612.

To the Richt Honorabill Jhone Murray  
of Lochmaben, one of his Maiesties  
Bedchamber, these.

CXIV.—W. WHEITFURDE TO JOHN MURRAY.

MAY 28, 1612.

RICHT HONORABILL,

I trust, Sir, yow haue reffaued a letter whairin I writt to yow concerning Captane Jhonstoun. He is now fugitive from this court

holden at Dumfreifs, for thift, and a man of his hanged as accefforie to thatt thift whairfor he wes to be endyted. Whatt falbe the event, Sir, yow may better judge then I: Itt feames thair is no way for him bott be his maiefties favour. In the meintyme, his freindis feir his effate fall in the kinges hand; being a landed gentilman and fugitive for thift, falles vnder the compas of treason. A pairt of itt holdes of your felf; moft pairt of the Laird of Drumlangrig, as being of the landes of Torthorrell. This mekill, I thocht itt my dewtie to advertife yow of, Sir: Yow can better difpofe then I can advyfe. One thing he had, a entres in the landis of Corheid and Moffett, whilk gif yow had, itt wer eafie to purchafe the full titill thairoff. Bot craveing pardoun of this my prefumptioun, I commend yow to the directioun and bleffing of the hieft and onlie wife, and fall evir remane

Your Honouris humble ferviteur, moft  
affectionatlie devoted,

W. WHEITFURDE.

Moffett, May 28, 1612.

To the Richt Honorabill Jhone Murray  
of Lochmaben, one of his Maiefties  
Bedchamber, thefe.

CXV.—THE MAGISTRATES OF CANONGATE TO KING JAMES VI.

SEPTEMBER 26, 1612.

PLEIS YOUR EXCELLENT MAIESTIE,

Thair being nane of your fubiectis of this kingdome quho be  
not grevit with the want of your gracious prefence, yet non haif fuch caus,

or ar moir fenfibill of the lois, then your pure and ever dewtyfullie devotit burgh of Cannogate, quho do now fynd a cauld nipping wynter for the sweit seassonable former they inioyit in your maiesties stay heir, and zit hald thame felfis happie heirin with the rest of your subiectis, that thaj inioy the benefite of your maiesties most iust, royall, and bliffit gouernament, fully perfwading thame felfis, now quben the fardest limeittis and bordouris of your impyre (ones thocht almost impossible) ar brocht to that fredome frome thraldome as thair resteth no farder feir of opprefioun, that your maiesties said burgh and inhabitantis thair of fall not want sum refresching frome that same welspring of grace, in being proteetit frome the wrang and iniurie intentit vnder cullour of perfute by law, zit more vniust then qubat is done vtherwayis in a moir oppin schaw of violence. And, thairfoir, we haif bene bauld heirby to mak humble treaty to your maiestie for passing and expedinding this article of parliament in our favouris, be ane so iust and ressonable, as we skairlie do beleif that any falbe opposed to the expedinding thair of; and that your maiestie wald thairwith recomend by speciall lettre the same to the estates, for a testimonie of your maiesties continewing favour to the inhabitantis of this pure burgh of the Cannogait, quho wer alwayis redy and wald think thame felfis still happie to be imployit in the service of your maiestie, your court and trayne. And so, wiffing frome God the happie continuance of your maiesties gracious regnne over ws, we humblie tak our levis, resting

Your Maiesties most humble and obedient  
and devotit subiects,

Mr JOHN HART, Bailze.  
Mr W. WILKIE, Bailze.

At your Maiesties Burgh of the Cannogait,  
the xxvj. day of September 1612.

To the Kings most excellent Maiestie.

## CXVI.—SIR DUNCAN CAMPBELL TO KING JAMES VI.

FEBRUARY 2, 1613.

PLEIS 3OUR EXCELLENT MAIESTIE,

3our heighnes lettres, writtin in fauoris of Robert Abbroche McGregour,\* now calling himself Ramfay, I haue reffaveit, quhairby I am willit to repoffeffe him in quhatfoeuer landis he haith rycht wnto, without truble or plea in law. It is of treuthe that he did poffeffs certane landis belonging to me without ony rycht or titill at all, yea, fo far againis my content, that with remembrance of my verie grit loiffis, I fall repent I had fuche tennent; and quhen he, as one of the cheif fpeeceall ringleadaris of his viperous clan, did nocht content thamefelfis to wrong me by the moift barbarous oppreffing of my tennentis, but had alfo ovir-rwne ane grit pairt of thre or foure thirefdomeis, than the generale greif of fa mony dewtefull fubiectis maid the exterminioune of this damnable raice of people to be reffolueit wpone, as moift expedient and neceffary for 3our maieftis peace and obedience, and the furetye of 3our heighnes dewtefull fubiectis duelling in thais pairtis; whiche work, fince it tuik begining, haith bene ever chairgable to 3our maieftie, panefull to the cuntrie, and with my particular very grit hurt and fkeyth, haueing had, befydes, many former loifes within les nor thais xvij monethis, twa hundrethe merk land waiftit and fpoiled be that clan, conducted by this fam man now recommendit; my tennentis, thair wyfis and young childrene wnumercefullie mwrthoured, and fick of thame as efchaupt the fworde, in regaird thair houffis wer all brunt, being left in the oppin air, boithe the aigit and 3ounger fort wer killit with colde. It may perhapis by fum be fupponit that this fervice is at fum gud poynt; bot quhen all, boithe the noble men, barrounis, and gentilmen, who haith moift interefs in this work, wer conveyned, than it wes amang thame refolved, and by thame to 3our maieftis counfall proponed, and thair alfo allowit of, that without transplantatioun of this clan, no quyetnes to thais boundis culd

\* See Melros Papers.

be expected; fo as this manis repoffeffioun to any landis, whiche by ftrong hand he held formerlie without any richt at all, implyis a dere& ranverfing of quhateueir was intendit for the gude of that feruice, the particular harme and inconvenience quhairof being wnfelt, no dout, to thais who hes bene fo eirneft folicitouris in the behalf of this man, fo ar thay als far miftakin in thair wndertaking for his gud behaviour in tyme cuming, in regaird thair is no dout at all, bot quhen he findis himfelf of new ftrengthned with a frefche growth of this unhappie weid (quhairof thair be of male kynd fum xvj<sup>xx</sup> of new aryfeing), lyke aneuche he will put who promiffis in his behalf to ane perfonall a&tioun for thair releif.

And becaus hard experience haith maid me more fenfible nor wtheris, and my dewtie to your maieftie doithe enforce me to conceale no thing of my knowledg heirin, I haue thairfoir prefumed to acquent your heighnes withe the treuthe; affureing your maieftie one my credit, that giff the ringleadaris of this clan fall haue the libertie to dwell and refide in thair former poffeffiounis, this wndercotting woude fall be found heirefter moire incurable. Alwayfe, for my awin pairt, haueing lyfe and whoile eftait euir reddie at your maiefteis difpoifcing, I moift humblie tak my leif, praying God Almychtie to continew long your heighnes happie and profperous reigne, and reftis

Your Maiefteis moift humble and obedient feruitoure,

DUNCAN CAMPBELL  
of Glenurquhay.\*

Edenbruche, the 2 of Februarj 1613.

To the King his moift excellent Maieftie.

\* Sir Duncan Campbell of Glenurquhy was in great favour with King James VI. He assisted at the coronation of Queen Anne, 18th May 1590, when he was knighted. In 1617, he had the office of heritable Keeper of the Forest of Mamlorn conferred on him, and obtained from King Charles I. the Sheriffship of Perthshire for life. He was created a baronet by patent bearing date 30th May 1625, and dying in June 1631, was buried at Finlarig. He is the direct ancestor of the present Marquis of Breadalbane.



## CXVII.—JACOBUS VI. CIVITATI GEDANENSI.

[1613 ?]

JACOBUS, Dei gratia Britanniarum, Franciæ, et Hiberniæ Rex, Fidei Defensor, &c. magnificis, generosis, et spectabilibus Dominis Præconfulibus, Confulibus, totique amplissimo regiæ ciuitatis Gedanensis Senatui, amicis nostris dilectis, salutem et benevolentiam nostram regiam, &c. Magnifici, generosi, et spectabiles viri, amici nostri dilecti, literas uestras, amicitiae et amoris erga nos subditosque nostros plenas, jam pridem nobis reddidit famulus noster Patricius Gordonius, qui etiam ore tenus singularem amplitudinum uestrarum in regii nominis nostri fama et dignitate, aduersus iniquissimas malitiosorum quorundam obtreçtatorum dispersas per famosos libellos calumnias, asserenda, curam et diligentiam abunde exposuit. Quæ omnia vt prudentiæ et iudicio vestro tribuenda agnosci-mus, ita a nobis maximas et habendas et referendas gratias jure optimo censemus, nullasque gratificandi rationes, commoda oblata occasione, negligemus. Quod ad societatem Anglorum mercatorum alicubi in Borussia stabiliendam attinet, etsi serenissimi Poloniæ Regis vestramque voluntatem perspeximus, et in eadem acquiescere lubenter cuperemus, tamen ne vicinis vrbibus, aut subditis etiam nostris, vllam justæ offensionis causam præbere videremur, præfidi societatis illius, eiusque assessoribus iniunximus, vt (si vobis id gratum fuerit), sex homines idoneos mandatorio nostro adiungant, quibus negotiū illius curam cum plena transigendi potestate committendam duximus; vt exploratis conditionibus a vobis vicinisque ciuitatibus proponendis, commodis et securitati suæ consulant. Trans-actionis articulos nobis confirmandos referuari volumus: cætera quæ ad tractatus initium, progressum, euentum, et ad ciuium uestrorum subditorumque nostrorum commodum pertinent, vestræ prudentiæ et promisso relinquimus.

## CXVIII.—JACOBUS VI. JOHANNI SPEMANNO.

[1613?]

MAGNIFICE et generose Spemanno, sincerum gentis tuæ, totiusque amplissimi senatus regię civitatis Gedanensis erga nos subditosque nostros amorem sapius perspeximus; nosque ad eundem omni benevolentia regia compensandum merito obligatos esse lubenter agnoscimus. Inprimis vero gentis tuæ virtutes egregiæ nos tibi maxime devinxerunt, effeceruntque ut negotium non valde difficile prudentiæ tuæ seorsum commendaremus. Famofus libellus, ad ignominiam totius gentis Scoticæ, in Prussia ante annos aliquot divulgatus, vestro et amplissimorum collegarum vestrorum jussu et auctoritate in urbe vestra prohibitus et suppressus est, quod nos maximum benevolentię et prudentię argumentum, nec oblivioni tradendum existimavimus. Eiusdem libelli auctorem Johanem Stircovium\* mandarius noster Patricius Gordonius ad extremum supplicium, juxta provinciæ illius [leges], est persecutus. Cumque actio illa magnis sumptibus con-

\* The execution of Stircovius, which, in these days, would very properly be deemed as an act of atrocious barbarity, was regarded in a very different light two centuries since, when it was considered as a most proper and necessary proceeding. This unfortunate Pole had, it seems, paid a visit to Scotland, but was not received with that hospitality and kindness for which, in more modern times, that kingdom was so justly celebrated. His strange dress excited astonishment, and his odd dialect ridicule. He was jeered, hooted, and actually laughed out of the country. Home he returned, and the first thing he did was to pen the "famofus libellus," which excited the ire of the sapient James, who lost no time in bringing to condign punishment the unfortunate scribbler. By the instrumentality of Patrick Gordon, the author of the "Bruce," Stircovius was apprehended, tried, convicted, sentenced, and beheaded. All this could not be done without money, and of necessity a considerable sum was expended; his Majesty, although desirous of vindicating the dignity of the Scottish nation, was not inclined to do so at his own expense, and he modestly proposed to make the Scottish boroughs the sufferers. To this proposition, however, the various magistrates were not disposed to listen:—so the King took proceedings against his refractory subjects before the Lords of the Secret Council. To his great vexation, the proposed Judges held they had no jurisdiction, and refused to proceed. The King was thus obliged to have recourse to some other expedient, and accordingly he appears to have written to the magistrates of Dantzic the letter now first printed, by which he proposes to tax all his subjects resident there. The decret of absolutor in favour of the boroughs was printed from the original among the papers of the city of Edinburgh in a private publication, entitled *Nugæ Scoticæ*.

fuerit, et adhuc non exigua summa urbis vestræ incolis perfolvenda restet, consuetissimum nobis visum est, ut subditi nostri, tam in urbe vestra degentes quam e Polonia et Prussia eo advenientes, qui cum vicinis paria onera in negotio illo Starcoviano non sustinuerunt, illis pro ratione census adæquantur, donec tota summa residua plene perfolvatur, et Davidi Graio pro maximis laboribus in negotio illo conficiendo exantlatis ex equo et bono satisfiat. Quapropter ut gentis tuæ iussu et consilio homines idonei elegantur, qui hujus rei curam habeant, pecuniam a volentibus colligant, a nolentibus, vestra auctoritate freti, exigant, rationemque diligentiae et fidelitatis reddant, vehementer rogamus. Factura gens tua rem nobis gratissimam, et, uti opportunitas offerat, regio favore nostro dignam.

Magnifico et generoso Domino Johanni Spemanno, amplissimo regiae civitatis Gedanensi Praefecti, equiti aurato, fideliter nobis dilecto.

## CXIX.—SIR ALEXANDER HAY TO KING JAMES VI.

JULY 4, [1613?]

MOSTE GRATIOUS AND DREADE SOVERAYNE,

According to directioun, immediatlye vpoun my arryvall heir, I delyuered to the tuo Archbishoppis, being together, the draught of the Confessioun of Faithe, whereanent they ar to wryite, and fend vp there owne opinionis. For my owne pairte, I do skairfe think that it can be ather addit to, or altered to the bettir, haveing alreddy abidden suche a tuichestone; bot leiving the divines to there owne functioun, I wes the more vnhablle to yeild thame satisfactioun in there doubtis, when the same wer reserved vp from me. Anent the keiping of the parliament, I haif acquaynted the archbishoppis therewith, as in lyike sort the chancellour haveing shewin no caus thereof, bot the aid of remanding, and therewith to my

Lord Chancellour only as yit, the course to be takin thereat, for some supplye to my Ladye Elizabethis mariage. In these few vnto whome it is alreddy impaired, I do find contrarye opinionis both of allowing and disproving the holdeing of it; bot heirof your maiestie is to be certified at more lenth by nixt packett. Auent excommunicat noblemen, and the advertiment whiche suld haife bein long since sent to your maiestie anent thame, Glasgou dothe excuise himself in so far as both these noblemen ar within St Androis his province. The other layeth the blame vpoun the bishoppis, who wer employed in that service; always he bathe vnder-takin, that if it be not alreddy done, that it falbe performed with speid. In this busynes betuix my Lord Chamberlyne and Coldenknowes, I haif written to my Lord Fentoun at lenth all difficultyes whiche I do find therein, being afeard if I suld haif conteyned thame in this fame lettre, and rather referring it to his discretoun, to be impaired to your maiestie at your highnes best leasure. No packett fall rwnne, bot your maiestie fall vnderstand of my dischaarge of some parte of my laidening, vntill I do cleare myself, disburdeyned of whatevir is within my instructiounis conteyned; wherein, I do humblye entreate your maiesties pardoun, if, in doing thereof, I suld the more frequentlye wryite. And wisheing from God the daylie increafe of your maiesties health and happynes, I humblye kifs your sacred hand, and restis

Your Maiesties most humble and dewtifull  
subiect and fervant,

ALEX<sup>B</sup>. HAY.\*

Edinburgh, 4 July.

\* Sir Alexander Hay, younger son of Alexander Hay of East Kennet. On the 3d February 1610 he was admitted an Ordinary Lord of Session, in room of Lord Holyroodhouse. He was appointed Clerk Register on the 30th of July 1612, and died in 1616.

## CXX.—THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE TO JOHN MURRAY.

FEBRUARY 10, 1614.

RIGHT TRAIST FREIND, AND WEILBELOUED COUSING,

I haue refaued yours off the 28 Jan<sup>r</sup>., quhairby I onderstand myne was cuimed to your handis off the 21, concerning Rihillis biffines,\* quhairoff I am werie glaid, specialie be that yie write to me, I fould fhoirtlie, as yie hoiped, heir off ane guid fucces in that earand. This onlye I haue to write to yow; if yie that ar daylie attendantis, domestic and hamelie with his sacred maiestie, can nocht moue his maiestie to putt that turne fummariie and fhoirtlie to guid end, vpon sa guid and fuire groundis as I haue fett down, quibilk in my faule and conscience ar iust and equitabill, or then being sa adiuired be his maiesties lettir, as I wist, I fould neiuer haue presuimed to write sa far, if yie, I say, procure nocht presentlie, ane finall determinatioun in that cause, be his maiesties awin sentence, quibilk may be a royall sentence in deid, and wordie off king Solomon, or onye wisest monarche; if the mater be putt to farder disputatioun, that lordshippe will melt and vanish away; and nather fall his maiestie, nor onye other, haue eiuer honour or pleafour off the end off the befinis. This I write to yow, and wissis yow communicat the same to Lord Fentoun, and doe the best yie may, for I can doe na mair for my pairt. Sua, nocht hauing farder bot to wifs yow all happines, restis

Yiour louing coufing alwayis at command,

DUNFERMELJNE.

Frome Edinburgh, 10 Feb. 1614.

I pray yow that this may present baith my bedfallowis hartlie kindnes to yiouris and my awin.

To my weelbeloued cofen Johne Murraye,  
of his sacred Maiesties Bedchalmer.

\* The dispute between Lord Sanquhar and the natural son of the late Lord. The King's award will be found in the Abbotsford Miscellany.

## CXXI.—SIR GIDEON MURRAY TO KING JAMES VI.

JUNE 9, 1614.

MOST SACRED SOUERANE,

The workis of the filwer myndis being now fo far advanced that the workmen haif begunne to land fume metall, altho far inferiour to the expenfes that the wndirtakaris beftow thairvpon, it is neceffar your maieftis plefour touartis the eleçtione ather of the tent part of the mettale, or the threttie part of the filwer efter it be fynned, vpon thair expenfes, be knawin. Sir William Alexander\* hes a warrant to be paft your maieftis hand for this effect, and I houpe your maieftie will mak choice of your proportione efter it be fynned, becaus thair is probabilitie of greiter benefeit that way, nor be reflaving of the mettall, to be fynned at your maieftis charges. The eleçtione beand maid, I fall do my dewtie by taking vpp your maieftis part exactlie.

Your maieftie hes a letter fent frome the counfell, concerning fume queftione that your maieftis aduocat and myfelf hes with the archbifchope of Santandrois, whairanent, and anent fume wther queftiones of the lyk nature, it is defyred that your maieftie wald be pleafit to appoynt fume of your cownfell and feffione to confider and determine : He declynes the advocat and myfelf as parteis. The chancclour, fecretar, prefident, clerk of the regifter, and geue your maieftie will be pleafit to adioyne any wtheris with thame, ar weill informed of the buffinies, and fo wilbe the fitteft perfones to be employed, geue fo be your maieftie find it to be doune. I declyne to haif any queftione with the archbifchope, geue materis may be fetled in a peaceble maner, and fo hes left of all perfutt of law, till your maieftis gracious plefour be knawin heiranent. Swa, wifch-

\* The poet, created Earl of Stirling by Charles I.

ing your maiestie a lang and healthfull lyffe, with all happienes and contentment, I reit

Your sacred Maiesteis most humble  
and faithful feruand,

G. MURRAY.\*

Edinbrught, the 9th of June 1614.

To the Kingis most sacred Maiestie.

\* Sir Gideon Murray held for many years the office of Treasurer-depute of Scotland, and had the entire direction of the revenues, which he managed so well, that, besides keeping the royal residences and fortresses in excellent repair, he was enabled to defray the expenses of the King's visit in 1617. The Earl of Mar was the High Treasurer. The following verses upon Principal and Deputy are from a rare volume, entitled *The Poetical Recreations of Mr Alexander Craig of Rose-craig, Scoto Britan.* p. 25. Aberdene, printed by Edward Raban for David Melville, 1623.

Once more one poor petition I present,  
Marre not the muses, mightie Marr, I pray :  
Such as to musicke haue a mynde full bent,  
Will saue the sacred Muses from decay.  
The dittie giues the diapason grace :  
Bee friende to both ; for now fits tyme and place.

Replie to a dilatorie answer sent by Sir Gedeon [Murray] to the author:—

Your sub Receiver shew'd mee, you were sorie  
You could not so dispatch mee as you would ;  
And tolde mee on, with stambring Tongue, a storie  
Scarse vnder-tood, when it was ten tymes tolde.  
This difference I put betwixt you two,  
Hee's short in Words, and you in Deedes are slow.

Notwithstanding the beneficial results of his administration of the revenues, King James listened to the accusations of the enemies of Sir Gideon, and he was sent down to Scotland for trial. This affected him so much, that he abstained from food for several days, and died on the 28th June 1621. His son and heir, Patrick, was the first Lord Elbank.

## CXXII.—THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE TO JOHN MURRAY.

JUNE 30, 1614.

WEILBELOUED COUSING,

I haue refaued baith ȝiour lettirs off the 18 instant frome ȝiour good half-marrow, and off the 7 fra my Lord Sanquhair, with all the crediēt be imparted to me frome ȝiow, quhairoff I thank ȝiow hartlie; and speciallie for latting me knaw his maiesties minde towartis Francis Stewart,\* quhilk treulie relieuis me off ane greate thocht and cair; for I feared eiuer his maiestie nicht suspect me as consentar to ane bargane likelie to goe fordwart quhither I will or nocht, quhilk I was verie far against, and wrocht be all meanis possibill to ganestand. Fra this furth, I will leue it to Goddis will and dispositioun, and trubill me na mair thairwith; albeit in treuth I think baith parties nicht doe bettir for thair awin weill. In my Lord Sanguharis affaires, be assured I fall continew as I haue begunne, and as rafoun and equitie requires. According to his maiesties command, the counfall has fend lettirs to my Lord Scone, to deliuer to his lordship the housis and stuff in St Jhonstoun. I haue na newis to impaire to ȝiow frome this, but sic as I am certane is writtin at lenth be my Lord Secretair. Wee heir be fuim passagers cuimed fra Orkney, that after his maiesteis shippis was by that cost, the countrie peopill upon fuim guid occasioun has tane a guid number of Inglish pirattis with fuim slaughter on ather fyde. The pirattis was in ane Dutche shippe off twa hundir tunne and aboue, latelie spoiled be thame, laedin with Inglish mennis geir frome eist countries with rye and irne; always off this wee haue ȝit na particular certantie. Vpon fuim apeirance off fuim grudge betuix my Lord Marqueis of Hamiltoun and Lord Ogilbie and his sonne and freinds, about holding fuim courtis in August at Arbroth, the counfall, to preuent greater harme, has bound baith parties ondir greate fomis to his maiesties peace. Wee haue heir as ȝit ane extraordinair cauld, wittie and windie fomer. I man be hamelie to empefche

\* Eldest son of Francis Stewart Earl of Bothwell.



giow now in quhat was euer done to me before be my Lord Dumbar, butt onye fuite or troubill: He fend to me frome thence eurie 3eir out off his maiesties wardroppe ane brodered poolke for carieing the greate feale, sic as my Lord Chancelar caries thair, werie magnific and honest; for that can nocht be gottin maed heir, or ellis I fould nocht trubill 3iow nor name for ane. Sence my Lord Dumbar departed this lyff, this three 3eir I haue had name, and sic as I haue, ar worne aulde and nocht fa cuimelie as neid war, quhilk I man with 3iow, coufing, find meanis to gett supplied be his maiesties command out off the warderobbe, as hes bein before. Sir Alex<sup>r</sup> Hay, now Clerk of Register, then Seceretair, quha was in vse to cause mak thame, faves to me he caused, euer at my Lord Dumbarris directioun be his maiesties command, ane Mr Brodie in the warderobbe mak thame, and thay war all werie fair in deid, brodered with the armis off Scotland on the first quarter and thridde, Inglish on the second, and Irish in the fourt; and with all ornamentis off baith kingdomes anfuirabill, as I doubt nocht but the said Mr Brodie, or fuim of his feruandis, has 3it the exempill befide thame and patrone; for the last I had was in the 3ier 1610, fend to me be my Lord Dumbarr. Tak fuim guid course for this as 3ie find best. Sua, taking my leue, I rest euer

3iour louing coufing to serue 3iow,

DUNFERMELJNE.

Frome Halyruidhoufe, last Junij 1614.

To the right honorabill my assured good freind  
Jhone Morraye, of his sacred Maiesteis Bed-  
chalmers.

CXXIII.—THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE TO JOHN MURRAY.

JULY 8, 1614.

RIGHT HONORABILL COUSING,

I haue refaued 3iour kindlie lettir fra my Lord Bischop off  
Glasgow, and can nocht bot thank 3iow off 3iour monye testimonies of

kindnes. Quhen euer that mater concerning the Chapell Royall fall be handled, I fall doe guid will to my powar, baith for ȝiour fatiffaȝtioun and Sir Robert Gordounis, as ȝie recommend to me. Ȝiour bedfellow is nocht ȝit returned to this toun, bot I haue ane great complaint to ȝiow off hir; for na treatie I can mak to hir, shoe will nocht tak ane chalmer heir in the kings houe, quhilk my bedfellow made readie to hir, and I think ather ȝie or shoe fould be als hamelie and priuat with me as with onye, and specialie in this houe. Because my Lord Fentoun is reteired to Ingilfeild for his health the tyme of this progres, ȝie man excufe my hame-lines to trubill ȝiow with my pacquettis, and to burding ȝiow to be cairfull my lettirs be surelie delivered.

I recommend to ȝiow specialie at this tyme to fie deliuered with diligence mine to my Lord Bruntland,\* Sir Robert Meluill, and to my Lady Roxbrough, my sifter. As to onye sic occurrence as wee haue heir, I doubt nocht bot ȝie ar participant to sic as my Lord Secretair recites to his maiestie; for all is heir (praifed be God) quiet, in good iustice and obedience. Thus ending this present, wisfis ȝiow all weill and happines.

Ȝiour louing Coufing to ferue ȝiow,

DUNFERMELJNE.

Frome Halyruidhoufe, 8 July 1614.

I man nocht forȝiett to gif ȝiow speciall thankis for the guid will and fauour, I onderstand of my nepuieu Sir Claud Hamiltoun, ȝie haue shawin to him in this befines he has had adoe.

To the right honorabill my affured good  
freind Jhone Murray, in his Maiesties  
Bedchalmer.

\* Eldest son of Sir Robert, the first Lord Melville. He was appointed an extraordinary Lord of Session, 26th February 1601, by the title of Lord Burntisland. He succeeded as second Lord Melville in 1621, and, dying without issue, 9th March 1635, the Barony, in terms of the patent, devolved on John Melville of Raith, "grandson of his uncle." See Wood's Douglas, Vol. II. p. 113.

## CXXIV.—THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE TO JOHN MURRAY.

JULY 15, 1614.

WEILBELOUED COUSING,

I thank ziow hartlye for ziour kindlye aduertifment, contained in ziour lettir off the 4 instant, concerning the variance and rakning fallin out betuix my nepuieu, Sir Claude, and the Lord Deputie off Ireland, quhairoff I had fuim worde before be my nepuieu, and off ziour guid will and affistance geuin him to mantein him, and mak him redde thairoff with his credicte, be right and trew informing his sacred maiestie, quhairin I man rackin myself ziour debtour, as in meikill mair, quhairfore I fall eiuier be thankfull, albeit I be nocht in hoipe to haue occasioun to acquite onye pairt of sic obligations, bot rather to trubill ziow farder.

I onderstand the Laird off Skelmuirle is returned to court. I doubt nocht bot it is to mak fuim wrang narratiues to trubill his maiestie anent the besines of Eglintoun. The last tyme he came hame, he broght ane lettir fra his sacred maiestie to my Lord Secretair, and Lord Threasaunar Depute, to trie my nepuieu, my Lord off Wentoun and me, anent some fuim promeis he alledged wee maid to him; quhairanent, in his prefence, wee gaue the saidis lordis full satisfactioun be our anfuir, quhairanent he has socht na anfuir fra the saidis lordis, bot is gone in haift thair, to mak sic informations as he may pleis. I man entreate ziow be fuim guid occasioun, latt his maiestie be requested nocht to gif him credict in onye thing may concerne my nepuieus or me, on heiring first our felis. I wif alfo his maiestie war richt informed, or rather remembred off the mannis humour (for his maiestie knawis him weill aneuch); he is ane kittill, mutinous, and onfatled man, full of confaittis, readie to rafe and steir maa broylis his alane, nor tuentie guid and wyfe men will gett weill quenched. He and his was the first occasioun of the greate trubill fell out betuix the housis of Eglintoun and Glencairne. He was besief himself off onye to mantein the fame, is jit laithest it fould fullie quenche; and gif it fould, he can nocht leue without fuim trubill and

besines to himself and others. Gif his freinds will nocht assit him to trubill sie as he callis auld ennemies, he will tak him to trubill with freinds. If he [get] guid audience and eare of his maiestie, or onye has greate crediēt thair, I warrand ziow fall mak besines aneuch, may perhappis after fache his maiestie, and trubill his quietnes. Gif he be shortlie fend hame to adrefs him to the ordinair cowrse off lawis, before the ordinair iudges, counfall and sessioun, his maiestie will find in that greatest ease, and is the best course for iustice. If he find onye extraordinair blenk off fauour thair, as he is inclined, his maiestie will find he will rase mair sturte, and mak maa broiles, nor onye wald luike for. And this I thocht guid [to] acquaint ziow with; and pray ziow doe ziour best wee be nocht ciumbred with that mannis importune or onrafonable fuitis. It wald seeme his maiestie fould nocht heir him off new, except he had brocht bak agane anfuir fra Lord Secretair, and Threasaular Depute; quhilk I can nocht learne he speired eiuir for, I think, becaufe he fand thame nocht hallie anfuirabill to his humour and inclinaioun, as he imagined thay wald be.

Other occurrence I can write of nane to ziow, bot that we haue heir, all this fomer, the maist onseafonabill waddir be daylie ranis, windis, frostis, and cauld, has eiuir bein hard off in ony mannis remembrance. Our astronmaris fayis the plannettis off this our climat aperis to be in thair conjunctions, oppositions, and sic aspectis for this ziour, in als ill humour, and als far by purpoifs, as zowr lower houe has bein thair at this parliament; for be guid rafon, the planettis fould aknowledge the sonne as thair lord and maister, quhome fra thay haue all thair light, and fould follow his cowrse, and gid to eurie countrie in eurie quarter of the ziour, sic wadder as he apointis the fason. Wee man referre all to Goddis mendis, doing the best we may: Sua, I end this, and wisfis ziow all weill and contentement.

Ziour louing Coufing to ferue ziow,

DUNFERMELJNE.

Frome Halyruidhoufe, 15 Julij 1614.

Ȝie man excufe me to trubill ȝiow with my paequettis, fa lang as Lord Fentoun is fra court. I pray ȝiow direct myn to my fister, Lady Roxbrough, and to Sir Claude, and Sir Robert Meluill. If thay be cuimed away, retourne thame abak agane be the first.

To the Right Honorabill my weilbeloned  
coufen, Jhone Morraye, of his facred  
Majesties Bedchamer.

## CXXV.—THE EARL MARISCHAL TO KING JAMES VI.

JULY 28, 1614.

Vpoun recept of your highnes letter, daited at Whitehall, the 24 of Maij last past, as one way I wes (not without iust caus) mightely greived to confider of the hard condition which perhappis may befall to our ischew heirafter, in being bereft of the residence of there princee, whereof aduantage is taken by those who mak a craft of calumniating others, and procureing thame to be condemned vnhard; so, on the other pairt, it wes to me no small confort that I fould now liue and, Godwilling, end my dayes in the tyme of a most gracious Phiarao, who bothe knowes and will not forgett his euir deuitfull and deuoiued Joseph. By your maiesties letter I conceave some offence taiken vpoun informatioun maid be the Laird of Halkertoun, as that by me he had bene wronged. If he as a subiect had bene respectfull of his dewty to his foueraigne, and had caryed a regaird to his place when he is honored to be a feruant, no doubt he had bene more circumspect, then to haue begun the first fruitis of his attendance with delyeuerie against absentis of manifest vntreuthis. I do perswade my self vpoun the many infinit proofes of your maiesties fin-

ceritie, vprightnes, and indifferency to all of your subiectis, that nothing that hath bene deliuered aganis me wilbe trusted vntill it be tryed. And therefore my humble suite is, that your maiestie wilbe pleased to direct your highnes counfel heir to caus call bothe that gentleman (who is so hard ane informar) and me before them, and to confrontt ws together, and according as they shall try ather my misdemeanour or his misreporte, that they certifie your maiestie of the treuth, wherein I doe so farr confide in my owen innocency, that, as far as that particular, I doe not deprecatt any favour. And so, hoiping your maiestie, after the counfellis repoint, shall iudge of the pairty informer or me, according as any of ws fall be found worthye of credite, efter humble kissing your sacred hand, and praying God for your maiesties long preferuatioun, I rest

Your Maiesties most humble subiect  
and feruant,

MARSCHALL.\*

Dunotter, the xxviij of Julij 1614.

To his Maicstie deliuer thais.

\* George Earl Marischal succeeded his grandfather, 7th October 1581, and died 2d April 1623. He founded the Marischal College, Aberdeen, and was a public-spirited and intelligent nobleman. He married, first, Margaret, daughter of Alexander Lord Hume, by whom he had William, his successor, and Anne, married to William Earl of Morton; second, Margaret, daughter of James Lord Ogilvie, by whom he had Sir James Keith of Benholm. The second Countess, according to the following letter from the King, does not appear in the most amiable light:—

JAMES R.

RIGHT trustie and right weilbelouit counsellour, right trustie and weilbelouit coosenis and counsellouris, and right trustie and weilbelouit counsellouris, we greet yow weel. Whereas, upon our certane knowledge of the unkynde, ingrate, and insolent behaviour of the late Erle Marschellis wyfe to hir lord and husband, who, with her sone, . . . . . \* the Laird Thorn-toun, and utheris, besyde other indignities, had, in a thifteous . . . . . bed, the said

\* These blanks are in the original, which is much destroyed.

## CXXVI.—THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE TO JOHN MURRAY.

JULY 29, 1614.

RIGHT HONORABILL COUSING,

All I can write to ȝiou at the present is, that yifterday the coun-fall, be the mediatioun of fuim particulars off their number, quhome thay employed in that earand firft, has fatted and fullie compofed the variance was betuix the Lordis Sanquhar and Kilmaars, and Drumlanrike and his brother ; bot nochtwithftanding thair agriand, has fyned the Laird Drum-

Erle of writtis, money, plate, furniture of . . . . . We, out of the regarde we had to the memorie of that man, who . . . . . contentment, served ws at home and abroade in greateft charges ; and . . . . . heirefter in otheris the following of fo euill a precedent, wer pleasit to recommend to you that bussines : And becaus a great pairt thereof wes clandestine and night worke, wee willed yow to call before yow and examine sik perones as the Erle Marschell and our advocat suld give wp to yow : And whereas we ar informed, that, in a later letter, under our hand, we have schawin to you that it wes not oure pleasure nor meaning in ony former letteris to hurt the said Lady Marschell, or ony other persone, These ar now expreslie to mak it knawin to yow, that we nether gave direction to insert any sik clause in oure letteris, nether, at the putting of oure hand to the samen, did tak head thairto, nor never meant ony sik favour to hir, who hath so ill deserved of one, for whose sake we wer only to respect hir : And to will and requyre yow to proceed in the said action, according to the tenour of our first letteris, against all persones persewed for the saidis factis, as ye will schaw your readdines to obey our commandementis, and zeale to sie sic barbarous deides condignlie punished. Gewin at our Court of Hanwell, the tuentie twa day of August, the year of God 1<sup>m</sup> vi<sup>e</sup> and twentie foure yeiris.

To oure right trustie and right welbelovit Counsellour, Sir George Hay of Kinfaunes, oure Chancellor, and to oure right trustie and right welbelovit Cousingis and Counsellouris, and to oure trustie and welbelovit Counsellouris, Erles, Lordis, and utheris of our Priue Counsell of Scotland.

lanrike in three thoufand markis, for his misbehauour in fending sic cartellis, in fear and terrour to others. Thair is alfo latelie cuimed heir fuim worde fra Orknay, of fuim trubill and motions rafed thair be the Earlis baftard fonne, quha has tane ane houfe of my lordis, and latelie has tane the kirk and ftipill off Kirkoway, principall toun off that cuntrie; is followed be fax or feiuin feore eiuill peopill, ufis diuers infolencis in all that boundis.\* Alwayis, Sir James Stewart is making thairaway in all diligence, with forcis fic as wee hope fall putt ordour to all wrangs thair, and punifh the offendars.

The onhappie accident of Mr Francis Bothuellis flaughter,† I perfuade my felf, is written to ʒiow at lenth be others; quhairfore I take my leiuie, and wiffis ʒiow all happines.

ʒiour louing Coufing to be commandit,

DUNFERMELJNE.

Halyruidhous, 29 July 1614.

To the Right Honorabill my weil-beloued Coufing, Jhone Murray, in his facred Maiefties Bedchalmer.

CXXVII.—[SIR LACHLAN] MACINTOSH OF DUNACHTAN TO KING JAMES VI.  
AUGUST 3, 1614.

PLEIS ʒOUR MOIST SACRED MAIESTIE,

The fear off offence in prefumeing to wrett haid maid me altogidder filent, if by my refrent in warde, and by the vrgent neceffitie

\* See Melros Papers, Vol. i. p. 143.

† Probably the brother of John first Lord Holyroodhouse.



of my pure effait, lyklie to be vndone by the hard dealing vfeit agaynis me, I wer nocht contrayned to haue recourfe to your maiefties moft benigne, vpricht, and iuft proceedour with all your fubiectis. My aduerfarie heir is verie powerfull, whairas both my moyan is mean, and my freindis verie few. If thair wer a challenge of moir fauour and refpect, frome him for whois caus my foirbearis and kyn haue fuftened fo muche harme, it wold be perhappis accounted by him now forgetfull of sic fervices, to be in me a point of idilnes. Alwayis, for the prefent occaſioun of my committing, and of my fo long detentioun in ward, by the ſpace of thir tuelf monethis paſt, it is of treuthe, that whill I wes minor (whiche, in ſome fort, is a reſone for extenuating of the offence), by the advyſe of ſum of my evill advyſed vncles, my kyne and freindis being than conveynit, it wes than concludit that thay ſould enter in no actioun with ony ſubiect, without my knowledg and allowance, whiche wes done vpon a lyklikehood of a dew confideratioun of my awin danger, who ſhude anſuerabill by the ſtatute of Parliament for my kyn. But when, vpon the Erle of Murrayis complaint of my vſurping this authoritie ower the tenentis of his landis, this wes adjudgeit by the lordis of your maieſteis counfall as ane offence, and that I wes thairvpoun committed, haveing now abiddin theis tuelf monethis bypaſt in priſone for the ſame.\* In all my ſupplicationis for libertie, preſented to the counfall, I haue no anſuer returned; bot by ſpeciall letter frome your maieſtie, my warding is commandit to be continewit untill I ſould preſent certane perſones of my kyne, particularlie nominat in that miſſive; whairin, howeuer, the importun fute of partie hath perhappis procureit this directioun, ȝit I noway dowl, when your maieſtie ſhall underſtand the treuthe, that the famin ſalbe ſpedellie recallit,

\* "Macintoshius," according to the Latin MS. chronicle of the family, "quippe legitimus Catanei nominis Caput et Princeps, ulteriori, eorum in armis progressui restitit, Comitisque Morrauiensis apparitori, in verba minus urbana erumpenti, nonnulla inflixit verbera; qua propter et Comes Morrauiæ et Dominus Gordonus, mutua in Makintoshium conspirârunt, eumque tanquam oppressionis reum coram Dominis Secreti Consilii citarunt (donec eos, de peccato, suæ familiæ gestu, datis scilicet vadibus, certiores faceret), in arce Edinburgena incarcerationi fecerunt, ubi aliquandiu manserit. Tandem vero, sua apud Aulicos habita gratia, sine ullo adhibito fidejussore pristina restituitur libertati." f. 260.

and my releif vpon that refone no longer flayit : For gif your maieftieis counfall haue fund it ane offence, that I fould tak ony fort of commandement over my kyne and clane duelling vpon the Erle of Murrays landis, what of refone can be pretendit to vrge me with exhibiting, or being anfuerabill for theis men nominat in that letter, who haue no duelling bot vpon the Erle of Murrays landes, who haue refflaueit rychtis of wodfett fra the erle himfelf of thair poffeffionis, with fpeciall clauffis irritant, incas they fould ather obey or ferve ony vther than himfelf? It being alfo of treuthe, quhilk I proteft on my confcience, that it is a mater altogidder impossibill for me to performe. Bot whairas, I haue maid offer to the lordis of your maieftieis counfall to find fufficient cautione, under fic payneis as they pleifit, for my appeirance befor thame at all tymeis, whenfoeuer I fould be cited, as in lyk fort to be anfuerabill for all men, whome ony law or statute can mak me ony way bund for; and in particular, nocht to middill or vse ony fort of commandis over ony of the Erle of Murrays tenentis. And now, fen the Erle of Murray hes nocht onlie difpoffeft me of all my auld kyndlie rowmeis, deirlye bocht, and worthellie deferueit be my foirbearis frome his progenitouris, with the pryce of our beft bluid; and hathe in lyk fort takin fra me the bailzerie of his landis, I can nocht conceave vpon quhat refone I fould be thus deteynit in warde, haueing now in my young 3eiris gevin that pruiſ of my obedience whiche I intend to continew, God willing, to my laſt breathe: and being willing to find furetie to do quhateuer the moift ſtriſt law of this kingdome can vrge, I hop your maieſtie will hald it vnreaſonabill I fould be burdenit with a mater impossibill. And fen thair is non allyve that can, better than your maieſtie, diſtinguiſche betuix richt and wrong, I reſt aſſured, that vpoun the reiding of my letter, your hienes pleaſour ſalbe ſpedallie retourneit to the counfall, ſo as my lang warding hathe nocht tryit ſo greaveous to me, as the contentment I ſall reſſaue of the vprichtnes of my moift gracious fouerane, who doithe nocht ſpare to heir the complayntis of the pureſt, being at libertie bothe moir abill, and in confcience profeſſing my ſelf euer moift willing to ſuppreſ all fort of diſſobedience, and to gif pruiſ of my moift dewtifull affectione, inferiour to no ſubieſt quhat-

focuer, of my rank in your maiesteis service : For whois guid estate, and long continewance over vs, as in dewtie I am moift iustly bund to pray, fo fall I euer remayne

Your Maiesteis most humbill and  
obedient subiect,

MAKINTOSCHIE  
of Dunachtan.\*

From your Maiesteis Castell off Edinburgh,  
this 3 August 1614.

To the King his most excellent Maiestie.

CXXVIII.—THE EARL OF ABERCORN TO JOHN MURRAY.

SEPTEMBER 12, 1614.

MOST ASSURED AND LOVING COUSING,

Thir few lynis ar only to lat you know that I am presentlie going to my schippe for Yrland, by that menis to geve his sacred maiestie

\* Sir Lachlan Macintosh of Dunchattan succeeded his grandfather in 1609. In the previously mentioned chronicle of the Macintosh family, entitled, "De Origine et Incremento Makintoshiorum, epitome," MS. Advocates' Library, it is stated: "Anno 1612, sibi matrimonio conjunxit Annam Grant, Domini a Grant filiam nato maximam, ex qua tres habuit filios, Gulielmum, Lauchlanum, et Æneam, et filiam unam, nomine Isabellam. Filiam etiam notham habuit, quæ, succedente nullo progeniei monumento, morti occubuit." He got involved in a series of disputes with Lord Gordon, which lasted till the year 1619, when, continues the chronicler, "Dominus Gordonus et Makintoshius, nonnullis intercedentibus amicis, Edinburgi quandam amicitie inierunt speciem. Verum cum postea Dominus Gordonus, Allani Cameroni causam, adversus Makintoshium, suscepit, durante Makintoshio, aliquæ semper inter ipsos vixere discordiæ."

In 1617 the honour of knighthood was conferred on him, and Sir Lachlan was appointed one of the gentlemen of the Bedchamber to Prince Charles, by whom he was much favoured, and who "made him a present of the sword he wore himself, which is still preserved in the family." Douglas' Baronage, p. 352. He died at Gartenbeg in Strathspey, on his return from London, on 22d June 1622, in the 29th year of his age, and was buried in the church of Petty.

contentment, quhois seruice, God willing, I fall euer prefer to any thing els in this world: And fence, boithe by his maiesteis laft letter, and my brother Sir Claudis\* informatioun, I find fuche affurance of the continowence of his maiesteis love, I will ftryve to geve proife that the continowence of that fall be my greteft greid, not dowting quhen his maieftie fall find beft occasionis, I fall be rememberit in the number of his maiesteis moft faithfull and humble ferviteurs; for quibilk, I think never to spare nather my body nor menis, quhen it fall pleis his facred maieftie to command, altho thair be fum that waild willinglie offer to me all the difficulteis thai could, as I can not bot remember zow of that I wrette in my laft letter. This, moft loving coufing, with the remembrances of my moft humble dewte, I defyre zow to fignefie to his facred maieftie that I am gone for his fervice, and that zow will favour me with zour commandementis, geve I can do zow any fervice in that kingdome, as I will ever reft

Your moft loving coufing,

ABERCORNE.

Southenan, the 12 of September 1614.

Loving coufing, I will pleis zow caufe this vther letter be delyverit to Sir James Fullerton, in diligence.†

To my moft loving coufing, Mr Jone  
Murray, one of his moft facred  
Maiesteis Bedchalmer.

\* Sir Claud Hamilton was the second son of Claud Lord Paisley, and brother to James, the first Earl of Abercorn, the writer of this letter. He obtained extensive grants of land in Ireland, and was, 6th October 1618, made constable of the Castle of Toome, in the county of Antrim, for life.

† This letter does not occur in the collection.

## CXXIX.—THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY TO JOHN MURRAY.

SEPTEMBER 17, 1614.

GOOD MR MURRAY,

I received your letter yesternight, and have thought it fitt this present day to returne you an aunfwere, that it may appeere what the truth is of the matter in question. I pray you deliver vnto his majesty the copy of the sermon which I fend heerewithall, and the letter of Mr Ball,\* the authour thereof, vnto my Lord of London, whose paines I was forced to vse in that businesse, because I was not well when the complaint was first brought vnto mee; but I tooke account of it strictly as soone as possibly I could, and if I had found the report to haue bene true, I had both acquainted his majesty therewithall, and should haue bene an humble futer that some seuer punishment might haue bene layd vpon him, whereof not long since I gaue example in a like case yet depending, as his majesty may remember. But since I found that it was a mistaking, I hold it better to suppress all stirring in it, because I hold it not good that any such buzzes should bee putt into the heads of idle people, when there is no ground of truth. The enormity of rogues and vagrant beggars whereof hee spake is such and so greate, that certainly it will one time or other do greate hurt in this kingdome, if it be not prevented, as yesterday diuerse of vs did say at the counsell table vpon another occasion. I trust his majesty, vpon the reading of this sermon, will give some present order to that behalfe.

I fend my seruant so speedily with this letter to know whither it bee his maiesties pleasure, that now having the copy of this sermon, and finding the truth of thinges, I should attend him at Theobalds or not, which, it seemeth by your letter, that his maiesty doth not necessarily require. But if it bee his maiesties pleasure, I will come by day or by night, through

\* Richard Ball, then holding the living of St Christopher's. His letter, dated August 29, 1614, transmitting the sermon that had excited the suspicions of the King, is amongst the Balfour Papers; but the sermon itself has not been preserved.

wett or drye, and shall observe this while I live, sicke or whole, according to my duty. But if I might be spared, I desire to be at Croydon tomorrow vpon this occasion. There is an old gentleman of Surrey, called Mr Dorrel, a man of faire estate, but himselfe, his wife, and all his children, greate recusant Papists; so that one of his sonnes, for denyeing the othe of allegiance, was convicted vpon a præmunire, and lay long in Newgate, till, by his maiesties grace, at your intercession, hee gave some mony for composition, and obtained his pardon. On Monday last, another sonne of this old Mr Dorrells, a proper gentleman, about 24 yeeres of age, and one who hath bene at St Omers, at Doway, and diuerse other places in those partes, came vnto mee, being somewhat prepared before by an honest diuine; and after much conference which I had with him, was contented to heare prayers in my chappell, and afterward testified that hee very well approoved the same. I dismissed him for that time, but tooke his promise that hee should bee with mee tomorrow at Croydon church, where I told him, that, God willing, hee should heare mee preache, and see the reverend behavieure of our publicke congregations, which hee had never beheld in all his life. So this night I looke for him, being to come fixteene or seaventeene miles of purpose; and tomorrow I hope publickly to engage him in an assembly of more then a thousand persons, which I do the rather desire to accomplish, because he telleth mee that, as the greatest part of his fathers kindred are Papists, so there was never any of his mothers kinne or name which were of our religion. Her father was named Gage, and indeed I know none of that name but they are Papists; and yet there are many of them in Suffex. Now, I am glad to take this day, because the next Sunday I am to waite vpon the kinge at Hampton Court, and so forward. I forbear further to trouble you, but rest

Your very loving frende,

G. CANT.\*

Croydon, Septemb. 17, 1614.

\* George Abbot, D.D. He died at his palace at Croydon, in 1633, aged 71.

## CXXX.—THE EARL OF ABERCORN TO JOHN MURRAY.

OCTOBER 3, 1614.

## MOIST LOVING COUSING,

Having spent thir thre wekis paffit in trying and clering all maters questionabill betuixt my cousing Sir James Hamilton, and Sir Hew Mongomere, als weill in the marchis of thair landis as vtherways, quhairin, I thank God, I have maid ane gud progres, as I hope to bring it to ane happe end for thame boithe, and to many gentilmen of gud fashcion duelling vnder thame in this kingdome, quhair thai have above 2000 habill Scottis men, weill armit heir, rady for his maiesties service, as thai fall be commandit. Thir many, I will certefe zow, I had at on dayis hunting with my self, fence my heir cuming, quhilk, I most confes, did incourage me the les to spare my travellis to put thame and holde thame in concorde, vtherways foirfeing ruine to thame selfis by discorde, not without greit hinderans to his maiesteis service. And I beleve his maiestie, being trewle informit of my procedingis, fall think I do him no lytill service heirin; for beleve me, thir gentilmen leving in concord, as I trust now thai fall, being favored and allowit by his maiestie in gud and civill courfis, altho thai be mere gentilmen, his maiestie may assuredlie expect grait service of thame in this kyngdome; and besydis thame, be assurit, thair ar no corner in the northe, quhairin thair is not gud numbers of our nation: and quhat I have at Straban I will not tak notice myself, leving it to vthers. Thair is cravit throch this kyngdome, by direction frome the Lord Depute and counfall, alswell frome the vnder-takers as others, ane voluntar supple and fre gift, as thai call it, to his maiestie, quhairin, it feiris me, thai do mucche wronge his maiestie. I refavit ane letter frome Sir Tobe Cafeild for this effect, to quhom I have

anſwarit, that geve I ſould haif occaſioun to be at any publik meting for that biſſines, I waild maiſt willinglie explaine my affection to my gracious maiſters ſervice, hauing nothing bot that quihilk I acknawlage to be his and frome him; and to the berar of his letter and my anſwar, quihilk was Mr Hare Achefon, I ſaid vnto him, geve his maieſtie ſould have occaſioun to craue any thing of me in that faſhion in this kyngdom, I could never mak offer of les then one yeiris rent at leiſt. This I gaue out of purpois to mak vthers the moir fre, and that vtheris ſould not tak advantage of me and honeſt men of our nation in this kyngdome, and certefe his maieſtie, as I have ſaid I have nothing in this world quihilk I will not be rady to lay down at his ſacred ſeit, and myſelf with all, to be diſpoſit vpon at his royall pleſour; and quhat I ſay for myſelf, I do in lyk ſort for all thois quhome of I ſhall have power and credit; and ſpecialle I geve this aſſurance for Sir James and Sir Hew, heir preſent with me. Quhairfoir, geve it pleis his maieſtie, quho, out of his grait wiſdome, conſiders the hardnes of our beginningis in this kyngdome, to deſyre quhat is ours, we deſyre to vnderſtand his ſacred maieſteis gracious pleſour, and, notwithstanding of our povertie, his maieſtie ſhall haue profe of our love and radines, and that we ſhall, as we ar bund of all dewte, prefer his ſtrait to our awin meſeries. Sir Hew Mongomere is in building ane fyin houſſe at the Newton, quhairof ane quarter is almoſt compleit, and Sir James Hamilton hes buildit at Killileuche ane very ſtronge caſtell; the lyk is not in the northe. Efter I haue put ane end to thair queſtionis, and cleret thair quhole marches, I purpois to go to Straban, quihilk, I think, ſhall be about the 6 of this inſtant. It is thoecht the parliament ſhall go fordwart heir the 11 of this inſtant, befoir quihilk tyme I purpoſe to haue my brother Sir Claud at Dublyn, quha now is at Straban taking ordour for his buildingis. I hope 3e will acquent his ſacred maieſtie with my deſyre to know his pleſour, and in all diligence lat me be certefeit thairof, quihilk I will expect in this kyngdome befoir the 24 of this inſtant. This, I truſt, 3e will tak in gud pairt, as no ſervice I ſhall be habill to do 3ow can be trublefum to me. I wille 3e ſould wrete to my Lord Secreтар of Scottiland to derect your anſwar in all diligence to my bedfallow at Paſſay, quha thairefter in all haift will not fail to derect the ſame to me.



Thus, my most loving dewte rememberit to your self and your moift woirthie lady, I rest

Your most loving coufing,

ABERCORNE.

It may pleis now to present my most humble service to his sacred maiestie.

Bangor, the 3 of October 1614.

To my most loving Coufing, Mr Jone Murray, of his sacred Maiesties Bed-chalmer, at Court, with speede, and in his absence to his Lady, and Sir James Fullerton.

CXXXI.—SIR ALEXANDER HAY TO [JOHN MURRAY?]

OCTOBER 6, [1614?]

SIR,

In this vacatioun tyme, haveing some reafoun of more privat reteiring, inregaird of my laite visitatioun in the loife of my bedfellow, I tooke occasioun to review some of the olde recordis in the Registre, and by collationeing of former thinges with this present tyme, I haif deprehen-dit my maister to haif reffaiued a greitt prejudice; for it hathe bein evir in my tyme muche marvelled, how the landis in the west pairtes of this kingdome fuld haif bein so high retoured, and the landis in the northe pairtes, and in the choicest pairtes of our countrey, as Fyife and Lothi-ane, to be so far vndervallewit. Heirvpoun I haif begune with a shyire or tuo, comprolleing thereby past retours with the present, and findes the

oddes so greitt as his maiestie in tyme past hes bein very far interest in his proffesseitt, for not in wairde landis only, bot in blenfh also, endureing the tyme of the nonentrye, the kingis maiestie gettis the retoured dewtye yeirlye, and this is a speciall poynte wherewith the slieriffis yeirlye in the Exchecker ar burdenned in there accomptes. Now, whereas his maiestie in tyme past for fourtie pundis hathe gottin only ten pundis, and sometymes skairfe foure pundis, this, in many small particularis, wald turne to no meane prejudice. The reafoun how this hathe befallin is cleare to haif bein done in his maiesties own minoritye, and in the best aige of his mother, of blissed memorye; and lyike aneugh most of them haif done it of ignorance, for tuo yeiris befor Pinkye Feild, to wit, in 1545, the toun of Edinburgh wes by our neighbouris brunte, and then many menis particular evidendis, and the most part of all regifteris, bot some few whiche wer in the castle, wer all confwimed; so that sensyne every man prefwimeing that nothing wes extant to controll them, they retoured there landis at pleasour, and so vnderualewed them as skairfe they keiped the sixt pairt of the proportioun of there former retoures. Now, my controlment fall proceide vpoun goode warrantis of there owne retouris from the tyme of Flowdown to Pinkye. Now, as for the compassing of the busines, it hathe in itself no difficultye at all, being so cleare that no wryter boye will put questioun in it. Bot it tuiches many, and the greitt ones moste, who, howevir they haif gottin their landis frielye of his maiesties predeceffouris, yit ar they loathe, according to our Scottishe proverbe, to give him kaile of his awne peittis, and every one tryis still to haif from the crowne, bot very few ar willing to returne any thing back to it. Alwayes, for the prosequenteing of the busynes, the more quyett the mater be kept, it wil be the easier compassed. There neideth nather parliament, nor assemblie, or conventioun of estaites. It fall not requyre recommendatioun ather to sessioun or counsell, generall or particular. Bot if his maiestie do allow that I suld proceide in it, I will break this iyce where it is thinnest, and will procwre some cleare decisonis agans some of my owne freyndis in the northe, and so, peice and peice, bring it fordward in severall corneris of the countrey, where there salbe leist resistance; and the greitt ones salbe then eshaimed to oppoife. I haif communicatt this ma-

ter as yit to no fleshe alyive bot vnto his maiesties advocatt, becaus I neide not the concurrence of any other at first in it; and as his maiestye desyres any otheris to know of it, it will not be the worfe to spaire it vntill the turne be ryper. As for my owne pairt, I mak no exceptioun of any person in this busynes; nather do I propone to my self any project of rewairde. If the busynes do fray me weill for his maiesties proffeiit, so as his maiestie may find that I am a weillwilled dewtifull servant, I haif obteyned my intent. I haif written this particular vnto you to be impaired to his maiestie, and that I may vnderstand back againe of his maiesties pleasour whither I shuld proceide or surcease. As for the reasonis wherefor I wald haif the mater somuche kept vp, no questioun the knowledge of it wilbe the crosseing of it, and heirof at some other tyme. If his maiestie so requyre it, I can give more particular remonstrance. Bot there is one thing that wald be adverted into, that when as this mater fall breake furth, it may that some propone as a grounde of a swite at courte to haif the bigones of the vnderualewing. Bot his maiestie must be pleased to reserve this to be dischaarged by way of gratuitye to the whole subiectis generallye, they amending the errouris of all there retouris; whereby his highnes fall haif his owne, and the subiectis must acknowledge to haif ressaived very greitt favoure. Efter you haif communicatt the mater with his maiestie vpon the first goode occasioun, I hoipe you will certifie me of his pleasour. There is no nobleman nor gentleman in the countrey bot makis his best vse of his chartour kilt; and I think there is muche more reason that these who servis his maiestie shuld sie and endeavour to help where the crowne hathe bein hurte. So, till nixt occasioun, I tak my leave, and restis

Youris at command,

ALEX<sup>r</sup>. HAY.\*

Edinburgh, 6 Octob. [1614?]

\* There is an admirable letter from Sir Alexander, detailing the captures of certain pirates by Macleod of the Lewis, printed in the second volume of the *Analecta Scotica*. It is there erroneously ascribed to Lord Fosterseat, a mistake arising from these persons bearing the same name, and being both Lords of Session.

## CXXXII.—THE EARL OF MAR TO JOHN MURRAY.

NOVEMBER 25, 1614.

GOOD HONEST JHONNE,

I haine vryttin this letter vnto zou in regaird of the presentt straitt thatt our freind the laird of Vachtune stands into; for he is so huntitt be the laird of Qubitingham, as thair is no mesur in itt. Itt is a hard mater that a iustice of pauce in execusion of his office being very neir mist of his lyf, and his neir freind innocentlie slain, albeit he hes committit ain error in his furie, zitt that he should be so hardlie perseuitt. I defy not that his maiestie should knaw that I deill any thing in this mater, for it may be he think that I deill only out of my particular fauor to my freind. Itt is treu I can nott deny bott I loue the laird of Vachtune, bott this I vill fay, that I vill varrand theis quha veris hagbutts shall go plain-tie aneuh in the cuntrie, from this furth, befoir a iustice of pace putt to his hand to mend itt. I vill prey zou to deill be all the menis ze can to gett the day continuitt, till freindis may doe thair best to fattill itt. I heir his maiestie gatt a fyn entermiwit gofhalk from my Lord of Shreuf-berrie. I heir shee fleis the herrin. I knau shee vill not mak the king gritt plesur thair. Gif ze vill gett hir and fend hir to me, I vill think zou a good fellow. I vill fay no more, bott I prey zou remember on Vachtune. Thus I rest

Your louing goffup,

A. MARR.

Holyroudhous, the xxv. of Nouember 1614.

As for this mater of Vachtuns, fens the vrytting of this letter, freinds are deling in itt so as ze shall deill no thing in that mater vith his ma-

ieftie till 3e heir from me againe. Now, gif 3e be a good fallow, and vill fend me the auld terfell, I vill fay itt is goflups cours : gif other vays, doo quhat 3e may, I knau his maieftie vill nott forgett me quhen his ramage hawks cums in.

To my very louin freind, Jhonne  
Murray, on of the Groums in his  
Maieftis Bedchallmer, gif this.

## CXXXIII.—THE EARL OF ABERCORN TO JOHN MURRAY.

DECEMBER 6, 1614.

**MOST ASSURED AND LOWEING CUSIGNE,**

I refawit 3our letteris befor my cuming furthe of Irelande; and in the particular, I wryte vnto 3ow anent the voluntar contributioun there, to be given to his maieftie, I had takin that fame courfe 3e did advyffe me by 3our lettir, as his maiefteis plefour beffoir the reffait thairoff, bot I think now all fall turne to ane generall fubfidye. Thir few lynis ar onlye to accompany Sir Hew Montgomerye and Sir James Hamiltounis lettiris, defyreing 3our freyndlie ayde and affiftance with his maieftie in their favouris, as 3e wil be bettir informed of by the particular of their awin letteris, quhilk ar wryttin at large; for quhilk Sir Hew Montgomerye did defyre me to crave 3our pardoun for him. Also, I defyre to be certifyet by 3our letter giwe his maieftie be pleafed to creat, at my defyre, thofe twa barrounis in Ireland, as his facred maieftie, diverfe tymes, hes beine pleafed to promeife vnto me, whereoff, iff fo it had pleafed God, I thocht his maieftie by ane vther fowld have beine remembered, quhilk fince it hes pleafed God to prevent by his deathe, I am contrayned to be moir troublefome vnto 3ow as my deir freynd; and I expect thofe twa I fould

hawe created falbe the first, whereoff, also, by my brother, I had his ma-  
iesties promise. Seiknes at the present makis me moirt fchort, bot I  
fal evir rest

Your thankfull and loweing freynd  
to serve you,

ABERCORNE.

Edinb. the 6 of December 1614.

To my most assured and loweing cusigne,  
Mr Johne Murraye, one of his sacred  
Maiesties Bedchamber.

CXXXIV.—THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE TO JOHN MURRAY.

DECEMBER 9, 1614.

RIGHT HONORABIL AND WEELEBOUED COUSING,

I haue nocht writtin to you this quhyle, because I had na  
subiect off moment to impairt to you. At the present I haue this aduer-  
tishment to mak to you, to be impairt to our maist gracious fouerane.  
Sence thir rebellis off Yla, besidis the invading and possessing thame  
sellis with his maiesties house of Dunwayge, presumed also maist trafo-  
nable to tak the Bischoppe off the Isles, and the Laird of Ranfurle\*  
his cheiff, to be as pledgis to thame, to haue quhat condicions thay  
pleased require; onderstanding weil his majesties royall minde nocht  
habill to condescend to entir in onye condicions with sic peopill, and  
knowing also weil his heighnes foris our sufficient to dantoun all the  
pride off sic barbarous limmers, as his maiestie had fend his directions,  
quhilk are still going fordwart, sufficient to bring all thair to his will.  
Confidering, neuiertheless, still that the parrell off these gentilmenn, al-

\* Knox—his descendants settled in Ireland; and the present representative of the family is the  
Earl of Ranfurle of that kingdom, and Lord Northland in England.

beit, too rakelſſie caſſin in that danger, could nocht be bot werye on-pleaſand to his gracious maieſtie; as it wald alſo haue tuiched this haill eſtatt, and us all in honour, if thay had gottin onye ſkaith, I was maiſt cairfull for thair releiff, and thairfore fand out ane man off my awin, quha had guid Irifh, and on his ondertaking, upon fuim auld acquaintance he had with Angus Ogg McDonald, quha is the cheiff off all thir outlawis, that he thocht he wald be habill to perſuade him to deliuer to me the ſaid gentilmen free, I directed him about the beginning off Nouember to goe thair: gaue him na write off mine with him, nor powar to gif theſe men onye promeis frome me off onye particular condicion, bot gif he could on guid raſons, and apeirance of guid generallis, alluire thame to the deliurie and freedome of the gentilmen, I promiſt to himſelf honeſt rewarde off his maieſtie. He went thair with greate difficulties off wadder and otherwayis, and in end and concluſioun, dealt ſa with theſe rebellis, as he has brocht hame frie the twa gentilmen (quhairoff I thank God), butt onye promeis or condicioun. Farder, thay fend to me with him the keyis of the houſe, with this worde, thay will be content to deliuer the houſe to onye I fall pleis fend thair to reſtaue and keip it, with onye cumpanie thairfore, on this onlye deſirie of thairis, that thay may haue frie libertie to haue acceſs, ather to his maieſtie or to his counſall, to declair thair awin pairtis; and quhou thay ar fallin or caſin in this troubill, thay fay thair ſould be found leitill falt in thame, and mair in others. The conſideratioun off this I remitt to his ſacred maieſties royall wiſdome. I will nocht meddill in the like off that, but ſpeciall warrand and directioun. His maieſtie knawis I profeſſed eiuir ignorance in all Irifche cabale.

I hoipe his maieſtie will think thir gentilmennis releiff guid ſeruice. The biſchioppes ſonne has ſaid to me, thay boſted thame eiuir, gif onye feige came frome his maieſtie to that houſe, thay ſould be fett out ouir the wals to kep the firſt ſhoittis. The gentilman quha has bein my moyenner and doar of this ſeruice, is ane Rofs man, called George Grahame.\* I promiſt to him, gif he ſould bring me hame the priſonnars,

\* The Chancellor got into a ſcrape by dealing with this man, who, if we may believe his Lordſhip, exceeded the powers entrusted to him. See Melros Papers, vol. i. p. 200.—209.

as he has done, for his chargis and recompense at leift ane thousand markis Scottis, and quhat farder rewairde fould pleis his maiestie allow on him. I will nocht brake my condition with him, bot fall fatiffie him before this be at ȝiow, and fendis ȝiow thairfore heirwith ane precept to be signed be his maiesties most gracious hand, to command the threfaurar depute heir to rander me that meikill filuer. Nane will think it euill bestowed. Or the men had nocht bein releiued, for his maiesties and estaitis êntres and honour, I wald rather haue parelled the losf off ten thousand off my awin. His maiestie may remembir, to sic priuie moyen-  
nis, for small founis I had Jhone Dow McAlaster, the greatest limmer, and brokin man in all the North, and his brother baith putt out: the ane execute in this toun, the other with twa of his marrowis brunt in ane houe, becaufe they wald nocht rander. For this I gaue three thousand mark. Ane other McGillieworike, I had brocht into this toun, and execute, ane stark theiff and captane off theifis, a Barrabbas insignis latro, [who] trubled all the Cabroch and Braa of Mar: for him I gaue ane thousand mark. Quhilk founes, be his maiesties command, was rembursed to me be my Lord Dumbar, and Sir Jhone Arnott; like as I haue his maiesties generall command to threfauraris to deburse at my desire, onye sic founis upon sic occasions; bot I think meitest [to] haue his maiesties special allowance for the seruice in eurie particular. I will omitt na thing may ly in my power or capacitie to doe his maiestie guid seruice. All this I remitt to the imparting to his sacred maiestie, at guid tyme and opportunitie. God preferue his maiestie. Sua, wiffing ȝiow all weill. restis

Your maist affectionat Coufing to be  
commandit,

DUNFERMELJNE.

Frome Edinburgh, 9 Dec<sup>r</sup>. 1614.

Thair is latelie cuimed to this toun, fuim worde of fuim late slaughte



committed in the Isles, in the Ile of Jura, on his maiesties guid subiectis, the particularis quhairoff I remitt to my Lord Secretairis and Sir Gedeonis relation, for thay ar mair particularlie aduertit off the same.

CXXXV.—REASONS FOR THE BURROWS OF SCOTLAND IN SUPPORT OF  
THEIR FREIGHTS OF FOREIGN SHIPS.

JANUARY [1615?]

REASONS for the Burrowis of the Kyngdome of Scotland, quhairfoir thair libertie aucht not to be restrayned in the frauchting of forraine schippis and boddomis for transporting of thair guidis to and fra the said kyngdome.\*

Firft, Thay protest, as nature and dewtie bindis thame, that they ar most willing to prefer thair awin countriemen and schipping to any strangeris in the world in the caise forfaid, yea, ewin with evident and feine los of thair awin accordis; bot if this proceid fra ony constitutionne, or publict restraint, or prohibitioune, to be maid be his maiestie, they fear it fall produce suehe dangerous effectis, as may evert and overthrow thair haill seafairing tred and schipping for ewer.

Becaus that president and example, the kynges and prynces of vther kyngdomes no doubt wilbe inducit, for the benefeit of thair awin subiectis, to mak the lyk constitutionis within thair dominiounis; and if so be thair is nothing to be expected but decay and wrack to our schipping, infamikle as the greittest number of the best schippis of Scotland ar continuallie employed in the seruice of Frenschemen, not onlie within the dominionis of France, bot also within the boundis of Spayne, Italie, and Barbarie, quhair thair tred lyes, quhilk is ane cheiff caus of the incres of the number of Scottis schippis and of thair maintenance: quhairas be the

\* See Balfour Annals, vol. ii. p. 57, 58; and Melros Papers.

contrairie, the half of the number of schippis quhilkis ar presentlie in Scotland, will ferue for our awin priuat tred and negotiatioune, if we baid not this benefeit and commoditie of strangeris.

This is nocht to be esteimed ane naiked prefumptions vpon our pairt, becaus we haue alreddye found the practize thair of in France, in fa mikle as vpon informatione gewin to the Kyng of France and his maiefities counsell thair, that this publict prohibitione of the frauchting of schippis belanging to strangeris in England or vther pairtis, they haue beine pleafed to mak the lyk prohibitione within the dominionis of France; quhilk taking executioun laitlie in Normandie againis ane Inglish schip, and ane vther Dutche schip, quhilkis being laidned with Frensch commodities, the maisteris and marineris thair of wer compellit to disturden the fame of the saidis commodities, and retorne toome and emptie to thair awin cuntries. So also the lyk wes intendit; becaus ane Scottis bark perteyning to Andro Allane, quhilk that fame tyme wes also laidned with Frensch merchandice, and no doubt wald haue beine practized againis thame, hed not the maisteris and marineris of the said bark pretendit greitter immunitie be the ancient alliance and leagues maid betuix the kyngdomes of France and Scotland nor vther strangeris; and that they wer compellit to alledge that thair wes no restraint maid in Scotland of any libertie quhilk Frenschmen haid ewer injoyed thair before, and to find cautioune to report ane autenticke testimoniall thair vpon from Scotland, as may appeir both be the proces quhilk wes deducit at Rowane heirvpon, and by the lettres of the Scottis factouris sent heir to the provest of Edinburgh, testificing the premisses to be of veritie; fwa that if this publict restraint and prohibitione haue place heir in Scotland, we neid not to luike for any tred in France, without quhilk nather can our schipping nor tred of merchandice stand, bot all will turne to ane pitifull wrack and confusioun, for we ar not in sic caise heir in Scotland as the subiectis of vther kingdomes, quhairin thair is continuall intercoure and commoditie by resort of strangeris, by quhome thair welth and estait growis; and thair is no strangeris that repairs to this kyngdome, except sic as importis tymber and vther grofs merchandice of small worth.

Secundlie, If our libertie in frachting of ftrangeris schippis heir in Scotland be restrained, we wilbe compellit to leave our tred of heringis, quhilk we transport to the eist countries, becaufe the best occasioun of the transport thair of is offred onlie in the monethis of September and October, in the quhilk seasoun we haue the commoditie of sum Dutche schippis heir, quha hes imported tymber within this realme, and wilbe content to transport our guidis for the thrid of the fraucht quhilk Scottis schippis may serue for; becaus, if they want this employment, they will returne emptie; and the awneris of Scottis schippis can not undertak thir voyages bot vpon greit and exorbitant frachts, seing they wilbe contrayned to ly the maist part of the wynter seasoun in the eist countries, be seasoun of the frostis inclofing thame thair. If thir frachtis wer gewin by merchandis, they wald report no gayne nor commoditie by that tred, and so must leave the same, to the hurt and prejudice of the whole kyngdom.

It is also to be confiderit that Scottis schippis can not convenientlie serue for the importing of wayncott, knaphult, tar, and vther grofs waires within this kingdome, becaus they ar nocht able to serue vpon so ealie conditiounis as Dutche schippis, quha ar seruit by thrie or four marineris at the maist; and if greit frachtis were giuen for such wares, all the wairis aboue writtin culd fearlie be fald for dowble pryce, quhilk wald turne to the hurt of the haill kyngdome.

CXXXVI.—SIR R. MACLEOD TO KING JAMES VI.

JANUARY 7, 1615.

MOST GRATIOUS AND SACRED SOVERANE,

Since it hes bene the goode pleasour of God, by your maiesteis most prudent and happie government, and to your maiesteis immortall prais and commendatioun, with the exceeding grit confort of all your faithfull subiectis, to blis this your maiesteis kingdome with ane

vniverfall peace and quietnes, throughout all the nukis and cornaris thair of, especiallie in the Yllis and Heylandis; swa, that now the hoip and expectatioune of iustice makis all men to seik redres of these wrangis, qubairin thir mony yeiris bygane, through the iniquitie of the tyme, thay haif bene silent. So it is, that I and my prediceffouris, being heretable tenentis to your maieftie and your prediceffouris of the landis of Slait, North Vft, and vtheris landis lyand in the North Yllis, qubairin we war heretable infest be your maiefties worthie goodfir of famous memorie efter his perfyte aige, the Clandonald, quho, efter the daith of your maiefties said goodfir, wer of gritest power, force, and freindschip in the Yllis, did most violentlie detrude my forbearis furth of oure saidis landis with grit slauchter of diuerse of thame, especiallie of my father, brothir, and vther kynnismen, and by fyre and suord mantenit thair violent possesioune aganis my forbearis and myself fenfyne; and I having now enterit myself as air to my father brethir in the saidis landis, and being infest and seast thairintill, and your maieftie being lykewayis gratioulie pleasit at my laite being with your maieftie, to dispone vnto me the nonentrie of the saidis landis, I hawe thairvpone intentit actioun befor your maiefties sessioun, for recoverie of my possesioune and richt of the saidis landis; in the quhilk actioun, I am lyke to sustene some preiudice by the practeis and dealing of my aduerfair partie, Donald Gorme of Slaitt, quho taking hald of that act of parliament, qubairby the inhabitantis of the Yllis war ordaneit to exhibeit and produce thair infestmentis befor your maiefties chekker, to the effect the tenour and conditiounes thair of might haue bene knawin to thame, the said Donald, vpone my alledgit failzie in that poynt of the exhibitoun of my infestmentis allenerlie, intendis to furneis actioun and pley aganis me, and vpone that onlie caus to detene and withhald fra me my lauchfull heretage. Althocht it be of trowth that I and all my prediceffouris haif euir constantlie profest your maiefties obedience, and did nevir kyth in counfall, actioun, or hostilitie with ony of the rebellis of the Yllis aganis your maieftie, lykas, I myself, in the fourfoir sextene 3eir of God, gaif my compeirance befor your maiefties counfall, and at that tyme fand cautioune for my conformitie in all tymes thairefter; and I, thairvpone, simplie apprehending that the said act of

parliament could nawayis stryke aganis me, quho wes a lauthfull subiect, bot that the samene wes maid and devysit aganis the rebellis and brokin men of the Yllis, in the quhilk nomber I diddanit to rank myself, I ignorantlie, and not vpon contempt, failled in that poynt of the producciounne of my inestmentes, quhilkis I could not produce the tyme of the making of the said act, in respect the said Donald Gorhame flud than inest in the saidis landis, haldin of your maiestie, and continowit in the violent posselliounne of the samene, lyk as he zit does; and I am bot laillie prouet and retourit air to my said father brether in the saidis landis, quhairin I am certane that it is not your maiesteis meaning, that any advantage fall be tane of me, bot that I fall haif iustice aganis the said Donald notwithstanding thairrof, or of my obiecciounne that can be moved aganis me thairvponne, the said act of parliament being onlie maid to draw brokin Ills men to obedience, and not to snair simple, ignorant, and lauthfull subiectis. In consideratiounne quhairrof, I am bauld in all submissiounne and reverence to haue my recours vnto your sacred maiestie, as the fontane fra quhome all your distrellit subiectis ressaues confort, and in all humilitie to besek your maiestie to wryte in my favouris to your maiesteis sessiounne, willing thame to proceed and minister iustice vnto me aganis the said Donald and vtheris, violent possellouris of my landis and heretage, notwithstanding of the said act of parliament, and the not producciounne of my inestmentis, or ony thing that may result or follow thairvponne. And so, crawling pardone for this my presumptiounne, humbly praying God lang to preserve your maiestie in your blissit government, that we your poore subiectis may, in tyme of our distresse, haw our recourse to your maiestie, I rest

Your most humble and obedient  
servitour,

S<sup>r</sup>. R. MACLEOD.

Edinburgh, 7 Januarij 1615.

To the Kingis Maiestie.

## CXXXVII.—JOHN CARSE TO THE BISHOP OF ROSS.\*

JANUARY 10, [1615?]

MY LORD,

I receaved your lordschippis letter yesternight. Maister Geddie has vndertook the safe conveyance of this. This day I am glad of your lordships counsell; and as it may concern me, I wil ply my endeavors to praeteis. Benedicat Dominus! Your lordschipp defyres to know the challenge and challengers; my Lord of Brichen† will be pleased, I hope, when he cums, to clear that poynt. They who pressed me with it fayd that the vniverfall consent of great men had caryed it as high as his majesties eare in such termes. Libera nos Domine! For your part of the character and min, as I am your lordschippis vnworthy servant, as thear was a tang in it, I may chance serve to tell them, in min owin name, as I haue don in yours. Noli me tangere!

My Lord, I rejoyse, as I schould, aboue expressioun, to hear of my Lord Eleēt of Dumblane‡ his health and good proceedings, hic labor hoc opus est. God enable me to proue a thankfull servant to my Lord St Andrewes for his favor. I shall be glad to serve in the meaneft of his commandements hear; and to your lordschipp I have still communicated my self, as to min own foul. Proba me!

I haue not been so weak as to flumble at your lordschippis silence; if I had not known, vnder your hand, the cause, I schould haue beleueed as much as I know. My hart ryfes at the newes of a ryfeing cathedral at

\* Patrick Lindesay, minister at St Vigeans, was advanced to the see of Ross, 27th October 1613. In 1633 he was translated to Glasgow.

† Andrew Lamb, minister at Burntisland, succeeded to this see in 1606, and retained it till 1619, when he was translated to Galloway.

‡ Adam Bellenden, rector of Falkirk, who, upon the translation of Graham, Bishop of Dunkeld, to Orkney, in 1614, was preferred to the vacant bishoprick.

Roffe, in the words of the Pfalmist, "The glorious majestie of the Lord our God be vpon it; prosper the worke, O, prosper it."

The Liturgy, ann. 2, regni Ed. 6, which with much adoe I gott, I leaft it with my curate at Brixton. He wold needs copy out what he could not find elfquher. I haue fent for it by the caryer; when it cums to me it fchall be forthwith fent to your lordfchipp.

I am fo confident of what concerns me with your lordfchipp, foe farr as you haue intereff in it, that I fchall never further examyn it, no not in a thought, whether time wil work it pro or con; but vpon fuch a threatening as I had then, and a tryal of my patience fince, about Patney (in fuch a manner as I haue layed open to my Lord Dumblane in his letter), I fhould haue held myfelf vnworthy of fuch freinds as both your lordfchippes have fchowed your felfes to me, if I had not, as a gratefull fervant, acknowledged the honor of your noble motions, by layeing my felf in all duty and fervice, at the feet of our Holy Mother, the Church of Scotland, to be difpofed by her as fche fchall think fitt.

I directed a packett to my Lord of Galloway\* vpon Chryftmasday. I hope his lordfchipp has receaved it. I præfume thear wer letters in it which concerned my betters, to which I was only Tabellarius. My Lord, forgive me, and ftill bliffè me by your letters and commandements.

Your Lordfchippes (very) faythfull fervant and cofen,

JOHN CARSE.†

London, 10 Jan. [1615?]

To the Right Reuerend Father in God,  
my much honored Lord, the Lord  
Bifchopp of Roffe.

\* William Couper, born 1566, and died 15th February 1619. A prelate of great worth and extenfive learning. His works were printed at London, in folio, 1629.

† Communicated by Mr David Laing.

## CXXXVIII.—SIR HUGH MONTGOMERY TO JOHN MURRAY.

JANUARY 10, [1615 ?]

SIR,

Remembering me of our ȝifterdayis conferance conferneing that lettir his maieſtie refawit fre Sir James Hammiltowne, and of his maieſteis ſpich to ȝow about the eſtatis of ſie as had plantit with me in the cwntrē, bethinking me of them, I am not a lytill amaſſit quhat thay ſould mein; for that as conferneing the erillis decreit, I am perſuadit that thaer is non gifin out as ȝeit, or otheirvayis I have reſaivit mor wrong nor I am perſuadit ſo nobill an erill, and ſo reſpectif of his awin honnour and credeit, will dow. My refownis ar, Firſt, For that thair vas a lettir of his lordſchip directit to the Lord Depute for the reſolutiowne of the mane and materiall pynt, quharvpon all our queſtiowne and debat ſtude, I had the karieing thaerof, and it was to be delyvrit to the Depute in both our preſentis, and we both war to hawe had the reſolutiowne. This I did in the cownfall chalmour. I attendit and followit alwayis in Sir Jameſis preſent, and at the cownfall tabill, quhan, as the jugis war preſent quha war to reſolf our dowl, knawing that, “veritas non quereret angwlos,” qubilk Sir Jamis ſo oppoſit with his accuſtomat ſcheiftis that for tow holl termis togethir, quhairby it coſt me 300<sup>lb</sup>, I could beſ no reſolutiowne nor meitting; and now (in my aſſant) to hawe ather preſſit a reſolutiowne, or to hawe gifin out a decreit wpon a reſolutiowne grundeit vpon Sir Jameſis forgerie at his awin poſt, in my aſſant, and that flat contrarej to his lordſchippis drectiowne and lettir to that effect, I newir being ſo myeh as callit to hear of it, I am perſuadit that no ſuche decreit will proſeid from his lordſchip, or that ther is annay gifin out as ȝet at all.

And, laſtly, If thair had annay ſuche reſolutiowne com, ȝitt was I to haw bein aduertiffit thaerof, that if I had had annay thing to ſay for my ſelf, I micht hawe had place to ſay it, and thaerefter his lordſchip micht



hawe determeined with a full refolutiowne quhat to hawe downe. Bot in fo greit a matter, and vpon a refolutiowne refawit fre Sir Jamis of his awin haching, and nothing thaerof figneifeit to me, I belef that it will be thoct a harde deilling, for that wpon tways als good grwndis the erill nicht hawe profideit in my fawouris, quharas I brocht his lordfchip the trew estat of our caus, drawin wp in a moft formmall and vnevitabill kace in law, refolfit and fet ondir thre of the beft laweiris handis in Dwblin, to wit, Mr Boltowne, Sir Jhone Everot, and Mr William Tabart; the quhilk kace and refolutiowne will alfo hauld good heir amongift the beft laweiris in England, bot I was fatiffeit that his lordfchip fould do nothing wpon annay privat refolutiowne; and quhatfoevir I hawe downe is by the erillis confent and liberte, 5it extant ondir his hand; quharonto thaer is no conditiowne annexit to aduertis his lordfchip affor I dow it; or not to profeid without his lordfchip prewac, and all that I hawe downe I am inforffit to do as he is (that the dewill drayfis), for that Sir James hefing fo inderectly and onconfionabilly profideit in that buffines, both agenft his maieftie and me, that I could hef no fekuirate bot from his maieftie, and that not to fuch tym as the defait and wrong down to his maieftie was firft knawin and redreffit; and that I being his maiefteis fuorne fervant, and thaereftir a fvorne covnfallour, at both wich tymys I was bwin, by them othis I tuke, to withftand and reveill quhatfomevir hurte I knew to be downe or profideing agenft his maiefteis perfwn, pofteritie, crown, or eftait: And now that how fone I cam to the knowlag of Sir James profideingis, if I wald hef combeinit with him or confpayrit agenft his maieftie, and hef mad wfe of that benefeit, that by the outvart face of the law, I nicht hawe takin by wertew of that lettir that I hawe ondir his maiefteis hande, for the paffing of my estat, togethir with all that I bocht from Con, or hes richt vnto, than am I efflurit that my lord, that is not onle his maiefteis fuirne cwnfallour tuays, bot hes alfo refawit fo greit honnour and benefeit from his maieftie, wald hawe thoct me onvurthy of lyif, and wald hawe problemit me for fuche a on; nathir wald his lordfchip evir hef allegit or brocht furth this decreit to hef fconddeit me with, fo as quhat I hef downe I hawe his lordfchips allowane, and that wpon fo good grwndis, and eftir fuch a maneir profideit vnto, as that

I to my jugment prefomis that his lordſchip will nathir pris to blame me, nor do me wrong thaerfor.

Now, Sir, for the fecownd part of his maieſties propoſitiowne, conferring the paſſing of my eſtat to me, it being now fwnde woyd, that I wald happely wrong ſuch tennantis as ar com to inhabit with me, and I hef ſet richtis vnto, I am ſoure his maieſtie ſuld fo confawe of me quho hes bein ewir funde willing and faithfull to ſerf his maieſtie, and that to the wttirmoſt that my perſowne, puer, or credet, could ſtrich onto; nathir hes his maieſtie evir harde of my onſathfull cairiag to annay man. All that I feik almoſt I hef it alrede ondir his maieſteis hand and ſignat, giſin at Barar Caſtall, the 7 of Auguſt, and the 12 of his maieſteis renge (and if I ſert now annay forder it ſall not be without good conſideratiowne), quhairin my honneſt meneing apeiris ſuffitiantly, for that in that letter it is expreſſit, that for the ſfraynthining of my tytill, and the ſettilling of thoſ gentilmen and otheir inhabitantis that I haw plantit thaer, his maieſtie is pliffit that a grant or grantis ſould be mad onto me, &c.; and this his maieſteis grant onto me, with a conſideratiowne expreſſit in my petitiowne, is onle to be wrayttin owir agen onto me in ſuche form as, the deſat down onto his maieſtie being mad kleir, this lettir may be fo frameit, that my eſtat that ſuld pas theropon ſould be good in law. I feik not to pas this in the perſowne of my ſone or ſom othir, quharby to defrad annay manis eſtat, bot in my awin, quha am bwnd to mak all thaer eſtatis good. Now, the grant being in my awin perſowne, 3e know that altho I wald be afronttit, I can not go agenſt my awin deid, quhilk is to mak them eſtatis; quharfor, this miſtruſt that is had of me, with all reverence I ſpik it, will be thocht ane evill revarde for my ſerweic; and eſpecially, quhairas I am com heir to attend and conſinne my ſelf onle to his maieſteis ſervic, quharas for a fiſte or a threikfor of pundis, I could hef ſlayit at hom and had my lettir ſo renewit, for that it was his maieſteis pleaſour that I ſould be mad ſewr, as it nicht hef bein mad good in law; quhar as, now, 1400lb. will not karie me hom agen, to my greit owirthraw, and the hinder of his maieſteis moſt neſſifarej ſerveic intendit by me, if that his maieſtie, out of his maieſteis princely and accuſtomat bontefull conſideratiowne, help me not, that to this hour, notwithstanding

of my gritt burdeingis, hes nather focht help, nor put his maieftie to a pennie chargis. And this far, Sir, I thocht good to wrayt onto zow, rathir nor to fack zow with long and oftin troubelfom fpiehis, intretting zow to further my difpache, that my petitiowne being harde and examencit, I may be put to that punt, that his maieftie, in his moft royall fawour and bonte, fall think feit : And thus, intretting zour patiene, I am

Your Lordfhips ewir for his awin meine,

HUGH MONTGOMERY.\*

In haift, this 25 Janvarej.

To his honnorabill and his aprowed  
good freinde, Mr Johne Mvrray, Gen-  
tilman of his Maiefties Prewiej Purce  
of Bedchalmour, gif theis.

\* Sixth Laird of Braidstane. He was a descendant from the ancient stock of the Montgomeries, and was born about the year 1560. He was educated at Glasgow, and thereafter went to France, after which he settled in Holland, and obtained a captain's commission in a Scots regiment under the Prince of Orange. Upon the accession of James VI. to the crown of England, he was taken into favour, and obtained a grant from Con O'Neale, Lord of the Claneboyes, in the following manner:—This Irish chieftain, indulging with his friends and followers at Castlereagh, in a “grand debauch,” as Lodge terms it (vol. i. p. 358, edit. 1754), speedily got rid of all the wine; and being desirous of procuring more, they sent their servants to Belfast for a fresh supply, when they contrived to quarrel with the garrison there, and returned to their masters after receiving a tolerably severe drubbing, and without any wine. Con, exasperated, not so much at the discomfiture of his men, as at their not procuring wine, reproached them bitterly, and as their number doubled that of their antagonists, swore “by his father's and all his noble ancestors' souls,” none should serve him or his friends if they went not back and revenged the affront put upon him and them by those “few *Boddagh Sassenagh* soldiers,” as he termed them. They accordingly vowed to execute their revenge; and proceeding to Belfast, assaulted the garrison, and killed one of the soldiers; but were at length beaten off and pursued, several of their number being killed and wounded. For this outrage Con and his adherents were found guilty, by a Committee of Enquiry, of levying war against the crown, and he was committed to prison. This happened a few months before the death of Queen Elizabeth.

Montgomery thought he could turn O'Neale's imprisonment to advantage, and resolved on a rescue. This he successfully accomplished; and contrived to get Con on board a trading vessel, in which he arrived with him safely at Largs, from whence he conducted him to Braidstane, where he was treated with great kindness. He then told his visitor, if he would divide his estate with him, that he would procure the king's pardon, who by this time had succeeded to the crown of England. Poor Con had no alternative. It was a sad thing to lose half his lands, but sadder still to lose his life; so, with bitter curses upon himself for his drunken frolic, he complied with the demand; and Montgomery and his victim proceeded to London, where

## CXXXIX.—NOTE OF PROCEEDINGS OF PRIVY COUNCIL.

JANUARY 24, 1615.

THAT letter fend downe frome his maiestie, with the petition enclosed therein anent the busshes fisheing, wes this day presentend and geven in to the counfall; which beeng oppened and redde in there audience, thay do werrye well allow of the enterpryse, and so far as in them lyes, will hold hand to encourage the enterpryfares and vndertakares to prosequute and follow oute that trade. But becaus the question anent the teynd, which is the cheefe poynte whereon the enterpryfares doeth now stand, can not be fetled bot in prefence of the pairtyes haveing enteressè, therefore the bishope of Sanctandris, Abirdeine, and Orknay, the Chalmerlane and customares of Orknay, the ministres of Pittenweyne, Anstruther, and Carrail, who ar the speciall pairtyes who clames enteres to this teynd, ar ordained to be warned to compeere befor the counfall, vpoun the xiiij<sup>th</sup> day of Februarij nixt, to answere to this mater, and to seee suche good course taken therein, as shalbe thocht expedyent; at which tyme the counfall will omitt no good duetye wherby this trade may be forthered and advanced.

The difference betweene the Lord of Scone and Andro Henderfone, beeng submitted in prefence of the counfall to the Bishopes of Dunkeld and Dunblane, the Lardes of Pitcur and Ballhanno, and the Goodeman

a pardon was obtained; but the division was not ratified in the manner Montgomery expected; for Sir James Fullerton, a needy courtier, contrived, no doubt for a proper consideration, to introduce Mr James Hamilton (Viscount Clandeboye, 1622) as a third party to the contract, and obtained the king's sanction to this arrangement, some particulars as to which, and as to the disputes with Hamilton, will be found in the *Abbotsford Miscellany*.

Notwithstanding this tripartite division, the estate acquired by Montgomery was sufficiently extensive; and he proceeded to "plant" it with English and Scottish Protestants. He was made a free denizen of Ireland in 1605, in which year he was knighted. On 3d May 1622 he was created Viscount Montgomery of the Great Ardes, and died at Newtown-house, on the 25th of May 1636. From him the Montgomeries, Earls of Mount-Alexander (now extinct in the male line), were descended. Notwithstanding this curtailment of his estates, Con O'Neale is said to have ever lived in strict friendship with Montgomery, and to have been deeply affected by his death.

of Balgowne, and they haveing had dyuerse tryestes and meetinges vpon that submission, thay suffered the same in end to deserte, without pronouncing of any decreite or sentence therein; whereof enformation beeing made to the counfall, and thay being desyreous to vnderstand vpon whose default and occasion the submission deserted, thay caused charge both the pairties and arbitouris to compeere before thame for that effect this present day: And thay compeering, and at length hard, it wes funden by reporte of the commonares, that after dew examination of all accomptes betweene the pairties, that Andro Henderfone wes restan great fowmes of money to the said lord, which he wes not hable to pay, and whiche the lord wes verrie onwilling to discharge and quyte: And the commonares feareing Henderfones exclamationes and outeryes, yf thay decerned him to pay those restes, and beeing loath to offend the Lord of Scone, by decerning him to quyte the same, thay therefor suffered the submission to desert. The counfall haveing at length hard thame heerevpon, and beeing loath that thir jares should still continew betweene the pairties, and that his maiestie should be of new importuned by Andro Henderfone, or his wyff, thay therefor delt with the said lord and Andro, that thay wold submitt thame selues of new to the counfall, according to the tennour of the first submission. The Lord of Scone made dificultye to submitt according to the first submission, vules the pensiou of v<sup>c</sup> merkes, which Henderfone hes out of the lordshipe of Scone, wer lykwyse submitted, to the effect that thereby all occasion of question betweene thame heirafter might be removed, and that he might haue no forder doing nor meddling with him. This beeing imparted to Andro, he freelye yeelded to submitt his pensiou in lyk maner; wherevpon the counfall, without ony forder delay, gave furth there decreite and sentence betweene thame, decerning ather of thame to quyte and discharge otheres of all comptes, restes, rekinninges, and fowmes of money, that ather of thame can lay to the charge of otheres, for whatsomevir caus or occasion bygane, preceeding the date thereof; excepting allwayes the fowme of two thousand merkes, as a pairte of that fowme which wes funden by the first commonares to be restan by the said Andro; which fowme of two thousand merkes the counfall hes thocht meete to hald aboute the said Androes head, as ane

awband to keepe him in quyetnes and ordour, and to restreane his diftempered and vnreulie speatches: And thay haue ordained the faide lord onnowyfe to crave payment of the fade fowme, vnles the said Andro, by his misbehaviour, give iust caus to the said lord to crave the same (the misbehaviour beeng alwyfe first tryed, and declaratour geuen therevpon by the counfall): And whereas in the accomptes made by the fade Andro of his intromission with the fade lordes leveing, he hes geuen vp findrie reflex whereof he alleadges he gatt no payment, the counfall hes ordained him to warrand thir restes frome his owne deede allanerlye. They haue also decerned the said Andro to renunce and discharge his pension of v<sup>e</sup> merkes, which he hes oute of the abbay of Scone, in favoures of the fade lord, for the which they haue decerned the fade lord to mak payment to the faide Andro, in satisfackion of his fade pension, both for bygaines and in all tyme cuming, of the fowme of two thousand merkes, within eight dayes after Whitfunday nixt; with this prouiso, yf he mak payment of the fowme of ane thousand pundes, preceisslie at the terme of Witfonday, that he shalbe free of the fowme of two thowfand merkes.

Andro Henderfone, by his petition geuen in to the counfall, complained havelie of his confyneing, and of the harme and preiudice which he susteanes thoroughe that occasion; and his defyre wes to be fred and releved. Becaus the derreccion for his confyneing proceedit from his maiestie, the counfall wold do no thing without his maiesties allowance.

CXL.—THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE TO JOHN MURRAY.

JANUARY 28, 1615.

RICHT HONORABIL COUSING,

I haue na farder occasion to write to giow at the present, bot to accompanie this berar, with quhais earand heir, I doubt nocht bot gie ar acquent; like as he will shiaw to giow all that guid freinds has

done heir. I doubt nocht bot my Lord Secretair writes to ȝiow herewith, like as I haue alfo writtin to my Lord Fentoun, and willed him shiaw my lettir to his sacred maiestie ; and gif he be absent frome Court, I haue desired him to fend it to ȝiow, to be on his name shiawin to his maiestie, and reteired agane. His maiestie, feing baith quhat the secretair writes to ȝiow, and quhat I write to Lord Fentoun, I esteeme, fall sufficientlie tak vp, quhow far Mr Williame Murray is failed too. It can nocht be bot a regraitt to honest men, that debosched drunken babillis fould perfume, sa imprudentlie, at sa wyfe and iuste a prencis hand, to misreport honest and wordie men, abusing his fauour, more to thair estair, nor to thair mereit or ony worth ; bot man be borne with, fence eiuver sa has bein, fuim onwordie in onye best estaitt or gang off men, a Judas amangs Chrystis twelf apostlis. Sua, ending this, wiffis ȝiow allwayis all weill,

Ȝiour louing coufing to ferue ȝiow,

DUNFERMELJNE.

Frome Edinburgh, 28 Jan<sup>r</sup>. 1615.

To the Right Honorabill my weilbeloued Cofen, Mr Murraye, in his sacred Maiesteis Bedchalmer.

CXLI.—LORD SANQUHAR TO JOHN MURRAY.

FEBRUARY 1, [1615 ?]

RICHT HONORABILL AND WORTHY CUSSINGE,

My best luffe rememberit. I haiff refaiffid ȝour letter the 23 of this monthe, quhilk gifis me greit contentment, bothe concerning my awin biffines and ȝouris ; and as for the biffchope of Santtandrofe behewioure towardis ȝow, it is cleirly knawin bothe to the kirk of Scotland and to many more, to his greit difadwantage and dislyking of all that heiris the fame ; for the hale biffchopis is lyk to go mad at him : for, blift be God, Sir, gif ȝe hard the honourabile report the kirk reportis of ȝow, ȝe

wald think 3owr trewell weill bestowid, 3e haif taken for thame, quhill maid my hart glaid to heir the fame. Sir, we heir that 3e ar a lytile in wytt, and I doubt nocht bot 3e fie the fame wtter in sum muffour. Sir, my cunfell to 3ow is for Godis caufe to be circumspeek, and cald, and wyfe, and let nocht 3owr passiou ower rewle 3ow, bot wait 3owr tyme, and feik God, and I find 3ow God to borrowis, they that feikis 3owr difcredit, they fall find thair awin lykweyis. Sir, 3e fall wnderstand Santt-androfe hes bein werie feik, and no man hippinis he fall leif.\* Sir, I howpe 3e will pardoune me for my cunfell to 3ow, for I protest to God, it cumes frome ane faithfule hart, that luffis 3ow trewlie as himself. Ferder, Sir, 3e fall wnderstand that the Erle of Orkney conwick of tressone, and is to suffer the thrid of this instant.† Also, Sir, 3e fall understand, that I wfid all diligence to haif gottin my declaratore of redemption throw aganst the air of Carco, conforme to ane preceis ordore, wfid at my awin instance, for redeiming the lordschipe of Sanquhar out of Carcois handis; and the Lordis of the Sessioun hes decernit my ordour nule, and hes cassin my ordour, for nocht fulfilling the haill heidis contained in the rewerfioun and innowat kontrak, sua, that the lordis hes pute me to ane new ordour of redemption again: sua, Sir, quhill my ordour of redemption be anewe wfid and gottin throw, and decreit of the lordis thair wpoun, the aduocat findis that I can nocht mak his maiestie ane reicht of the thireffchipe, nor he will nocht anfuere for the fame to be wald, as his lordschipe will perticulerlie wryt to 3ow to the same effeek, and gif his lordschipes awin refonis for the same to be schawin to his maiestie be 3ow, Sir; and tile me Lord Advocatis letter of informatioun cum to 3ow, Sir, 3e fall schawe nothing of the bisshnes to his maiestie; alweyis, Sir, the deley quhen his maiestie knawis the trewth of the bisshnes, I am persuadit his maiestie will be plessid with the same. Alweyis I think gud to aquent 3ow, Sir, that the casting of this ordour of myne hes pute me in ane greit securittie of my estait; for the casting of my order of redemption will tak away the lait Lord Sanquharis ordour of redemption that

\* George Gladstones—"The Archbishop of Santandris hes passed ane dangerous fit of apoplexie. It is supposed that ane new assault may be more difficil to put off." Lord Binning to John Murray—Melros Papers, vol. i. p. 194.

† According to Calderwood, he suffered at the market cross of Edinburgh, February 6, 1615.



the fame will niwer conwalefe agane; for the lait Lord Sanquharis ordour hes all the faltis that my ordour is callin for, and many mor faltis, fua, that the lordis can niwer cum aganst thair awin decreit all in ane wote in foro contradictorio contentiouflie difputit; fua, Sir, that ordour that the lordes hes callin to me, they can niwer fustein to my adwerferie, fua, that all the diffadwantage that I haif, I am put to ane new ordour of redemption. Lykweyis, Sir, 3e fall wnderftand forder, that I haif put my Lord Sanquharis fone natrall to the horne for nocht obeying his maiesteis decreit, and his maiestie promeit to me gif he geid to the horne I fowld haif his lyfrent for this caufe, quhilk caufe is for difobeying his maiesteis decreit. Sir, the threflorer deput wald glaidlie gif me the fame, but his lordfchip wald haif his maiesteis letter for his warrand; fua, Sir, 3e man get his maiesteis letter for this effleck, and the fame man be done fecretlie, that Roxbruche get nocht wit of the fame, for gif he get wit, he will do all lysis in his power to ftey the fame; for, Sir, fehaw his maiestie this is bot for ftrenthining of his maiesteis decreit and fentence.\*

Sir, I wes on Orkneyis a fyfe myfelf. Sir, fehawe his maiestie that, be Godis grace, I fall be caufule to difcharge any ferwice lysis in my power faithfullie to his maiesteis contentment, for I knawe his maiestie is and hes ewer bein ane juft and equitabile prince, and I am his maiesteis ferwand more nor ordinerrie fubiectis, and fall give prufe of the fame, gif God fpair my lyfe. Frome Edinburgh, the first of Feberwerrie.

Howris effectionat and luffing Cuffing to ferwe 3ow,

SANQUHAR.

Sir, wryt to me with the first occatioun, for I lange till I heir frome 3ow.  
To the Richt Honourabill and his  
worthie gud freind Johne Murrey  
of Lochemeben, on of his Maieftis  
Bedchamber, this to be givin.

\* See the King's award in the Abbotsford Miscellany. Robert, Baron, and (1616) Earl of Roxburghe, was the guardian of the late Lord Sanquhar's "sone natral," and would, no doubt, have opposed the proposed gift by the King.

## CXLII.—SIR JOHN COCKBURN OF ORMISTON TO KING JAMES VI.

FEBRUARY 3, 1615.

PLEIS YOUR MOST GRATIOUS MAIESTIE,

The deceifed Lord Sinclare\* marrying one of my dochters, and by her haveing iflue of tuo fones, of whome the elder, bye his fathers death, being now your maiestyes waird, I, as being the grandfather, can not, in dewtie, omitt to be a humble fuitter, that the gift of his waird and maryage (giving alwayes your majestyes dew confideratioun thairfoir) may be difponit vnto thofe whome nature doth enforce, and the generall opinion of everie man will prefume to carye the greateft to the pure orphanes weifare. As for any refpect to be had to my felf heirin, I do only plead out of grace, at the bar of your majesties gracious accuftomed bountye, nawayes challenging any merite (whilk in a fubject may be held for prefumptioun); and yit with proteftatioun of pardoun, avowing that never any of my rank have furpaffed me in dewtyfull affectioun to ferue your majestie, according to my talent. So, if your majestie wold be pleafed to teftifie to the world, bye yeilding vnto this my humble fuite, that I am ftill in your majesties gracious fauour (fence it hath bein cuf-tomeable to thofe in publick placeis, and employed in daylie fervice, to be euer refpected in this kynd), no doubt, as it wold gif vnto my graye haires (which are now verye neir to the grave) muche comforte in finding the vchangeable contynnuance of my moft gracious foveranes affection; fo wold it alfo move and encourage vtliers to indevore thamefelues by all fervice, on their part, to acqyre ane impreffion in thair princes heartis of thair dewtyfull caryage, and becum fo affured, as when anie

\* Patrick sixth Lord Sinclair. By Margaret Cockburn he had John his fuccellor, and Henry, a Colonel in the army, who died at Dysart, 5th February 1670. His only daughter, Elizabeth, married Sir Duncan Campbell of Glenurquhy.

particuler which might concerne thame fould occure, that it fould not pas vnregairded. As for the estate of the levyng, the hous hathe bein olde, honourable, and vntainted ; bot the rent and revenues thair of verie small, and the same at this present alluterlie exhaustit by occasioun of three surviving widowes haifing all three feuerall coniunct fyes furth thair of, so as thair is not so muche left of the rent as will afford to the pure orphane ane monthes intertenyment. Perhaps some of conceat to mak benefite thair by may be suiters heirof, bot I false loathe, for the whole worthe of it, to be found within compas of vntreuth ; indeid, the maryage may be some what accomptit of, bot when the boy at this present exceidis not the fourt yeir of his age, God knoweth how vnprofitable those preventiounes may prove. Alwayes humblye intreiting your majestyes pardoun for this my boldnes and presumptioun, and whollye relying vpoun your most gratyws fauour, which hes neuer yit bein wanting to any weill deserving servant, I humblye kis your sacred hands, and with my prayer for the continuance of your majestyes most happye, long, and prosperous regne, I rest

Your Maiesties most dewtifull and faithfull  
subject and feruitour,

JO. COCKBURNE, ORMISTOUN.\*

Edinburcht, the 3 February 1615.

To my most gracious and dread  
Souerayne, the Kings most  
excellent Maiestie.

\* Son of John Cockburn of Ormistoun, whom he succeeded in 1583. On the 4th of July 1588 he was made, upon the resignation of Lord Boyd, an Extraordinary Lord of Session. He was knighted, and appointed Justice Clerk on the death of Sir James Bellenden in 1591, and admitted an Ordinary Lord on the 15th February 1593. He died in June 1623.

## CXLIII.—THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE TO JOHN MURRAY.

FEBRUARY 24, 1615.

RICHT HONOURABILL COUSING,

All that I haue to write to ȝiow is, that wee haue na mater off moment to write off frome this, nor be apeirance wee will haue na fubieēt off aduertifment till the prifonaris frome Ila be heir, to be tried and examinat. We ar fallin upon fuim difcourie off fuim treacherie in mater off coine: fuim villains has ufed to gilt fuim filuer riellis, baith doubill and fingill, and has geiuin thame out for Spanifh piftolettis, doubill or fingill. Suim of thame we haif in handis, and, as I hoipe, wee ar on the way off the triell of that abuife; albeit, wee haue noch ȝitt attained to the full knowledge of thair knawifhe treadde, ȝie will heir parhappis mair off this after. The ftorme continewis ftill heir, and I think fua thair to, for wee gett na worde frome thence. Sua, ending this, wiffis ȝiow all contentement.

Ȝour louing Coufing to ferue ȝiow,

DUNFERMELJNE.

Frome Edinburgh, 24 Feb'. 1615.

The Archbifchoppe St Androis apeirs fuim better in his health, and ȝit is thocht fall noch putt off this feiknes in hail. Glasgow\* is gone frome this to fee the Jefuift Ogiluie refaue law.

To the Right Honourabill my weil-  
beloued Coufing, Johne Murray,  
in his fared Maiefties Bedchal-  
mer.

\* Spottiswood, who fucceeded Gladftanes as Archbishop of St Andrews.

## CXLIV.—THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE TO JOHN MURRAY.

[MARCH 1615 ?]

I CAN fay na mair to ȝiow, bot I will be glaid at my hairt to haue anis ane guid end in this befinis, and to be bound to nane, thairfore, onder his sacred maieftie, bot to ȝiow, quhilk fall neiner be forgottin for me ; albeit my powar be bot small, my guid will and acknowledge-ment in deute fall be greate and continuall. Sence now, be this resignatioun, all is putt in his maiefties hand and powar, and he may doe greate hurt and displeasour to my nepuieu, quhilk I na wayis can suspect, ȝit fearing euill counfall or infligatioun nicht moue his maieftie to derogate onye point to his honour, I wald wifs ȝiow, if ȝie parfaue onye sic thing or motioun in his heighnes minde, then for ȝiour awin entres deale with his maieftie, and shiaw to his heighnes, if he sa did, he wold doe ȝiow greater wrang nor to onye, to cast a galant ȝiounge man sa far abak, ondir ȝiour mediatioun, quhairby he thocht to haue had his fatling and quietnes in his promotioun. Wifs his maieftie and shiaw to him, it will be mair conuenient, or he doe ȝiow that wrang, to latt all stand as before : randir him his resignatioun and discharge, and destroy or cancell the writes signed, if his maieftie can na wayis consent to his preferment. His heighnes may haue wayis anew to hald him abak mair conuenient nor this, or to bring ȝiow in ony blame for sic a mater. This ground I thocht guid to signifie to ȝiow to hald ȝiow be, if ȝie find sic intentioun or motioun ; for wee fould forsee sa far as wee may, all possibilities habill to hurte us, albeit thay be neiner sa onliklie. If ȝie can gett at the refaitt off this, and sa fon as his maieftie fall see the resignatioun, quhilk is maist sufficient, ane command to James Douglas to fend hither in diligence

the lettirs signed, quhairoff ȝie fend me the note, all is weil ; and if ȝie can gett this done quicklie, I wald nocht think expedient ȝie maid langer stay on ceremoniall matters and circumstances. The Lord Somerfettis subcription is nocht necessair, nor ȝie neid nocht troubill him with this. If it be nocht his maiesties pleasour and directioun, I think he will nocht be opposite, for he has promist fauour and guid will ; bot I desire no stay nor delay, and he has much adoe.\*

Priuat for ȝiour self.

CXLV.—LORD GORDON AND JAMES MOWAT TO KING JAMES VI.

FEBRUARY [1615?]

PLEIS YOUR MAIESTIE,

Efter ane inhibitioun was feruit agaynst M<sup>c</sup>Kintoshe his teyndis, at my Lord Gordoun his instance, and he was requyrit to gife teynding, as ordour of laue prouyds, my Lord Gordoun fend on of his ferwands, with tuo notars and thrie witnes, to the lands of Collodin, perteyning to the said M<sup>c</sup>Kintoshe, and thair be wertheue of a decreit obteynid be my lord, befor the Lords of Seffioun, conteynand a leuen yeirs spulze of the teyndis of the saids lands, to haife poyndit for the by-run spulzeis ; but M<sup>c</sup>Kintoshe fend and haid lying await about the number of aught or ten fcoir men, armit with guns, pistolats, bous, fuords, and axis. All of them bend thair bous and guns, and violentlie deforffit and boistit to haif kilt

\* This is an unsigned confidential letter from Lord Dunfermline apparently to John Murray. It relates to the pretensions of his Lordship's nephew to the earldom of Eglinton, which were ultimately recognized by the King. See Melros Papers, vol. i. p. 199.

the faids seruande and witnefs, gife they fuld fett thair foot wpon ther ground, and maniffatlye mifregairdit the lords decreit, and reallit out that they did nocht cair for any decreit, or letters that culd cum from your maieftie. This thay did, the aught day of September, and tuentye-tua day of September laft, in moir ufurping maneir nor can be fchonin your maieftie. M<sup>c</sup>Kintothe did this, moir to haife the cuntrey and your maiefties peace broikin, nor for any wther refpeck, as may be evidentialie knowin, be reffene my Lord Gordoun wfit means to apoynt feuein feuerall tryftis fence your maieftie was in Scotland, for agreing that mater, and fubmiffiouns war pend and fubferyuit be either of pairteis and freinds, but M<sup>c</sup>Kintothe not being willing the mater fuld pack wp freindlie, fand means to break euerye on of the meittings on day or tuo befor thay fuld haife mett, and hes drauin all the broikin heighland men to him, feik as Robert Abrach, on of the Clangrigor, with uthers of his accompleeces that ar your maiefties rebells to be his fuldeours, and keips them in his boufs of Cullodin, for the fayme effeck, and gifs it out that the moft pairt of the heighland men in Scotland will tak his pairt, and will be glaid to find any ocatioun of a break, becaus they fay they haife nocht threuen fence your maieftie maid the cuntrey fo peaceable. Heirfoir, my lord humblie entreats your maieftie wreit to the cunfall of Scotland to punifhe M<sup>c</sup>Kintothe and his compleeces for his rebellion and mifregairding your maiefties laws, and that M<sup>c</sup>Kintothe may be maid to prefent thees rebells quhom he keips as fuldeours, that thay may be takin ordour with, for the better obferuing your maiefties peace, and preuenting of gryter inconuenientefe.

The nixt cunfall day in Scotland is wpon Wednifday, the tuentye-on of this month.

*Indorfed:*

Lord Gordoun and James Mowats  
Informatioun to His Maieftie.

\* This letter, which has no date, is placed by Sir James Balfour amongst those of the year 1615, although it is probably of a somewhat later date.

## CXLVI.—THE EARL OF ANGUS TO KING JAMES VI.

OCTOBER 11, 1615.

PLEIS YOUR MOST GRATIOUS MAIESTIE,

As it wes my no small greiff, when I onderstoude of the sinifter and wrongous misreporte of me, conferring my professioun in religioun (the fpreaderis of these calunnies vpon ther conceaved advantage of the far-distance of place, presuming that the partie whome they intend to vronge false condemned before hearing), so it is vnto me no small conforte to be the subiect of so gratious a soueraigne, with whome no detraction hath place, nor any evir be him convict vnheard; bot still reserv- ing the one ear to the pairtie accused, whereof I haue found the particu- lar prowise in this calunny laity vttered againes me be Mr Robert Wil- kie, in that your maiestie wes pleased nott to trust what ves vttered vntill tryall wes taiken therof be my Lord Santandros; and laiteft, your maiestie did direct Sir Robert Douglas to bring your heines fertentie heirin, vho, no dout, befor this tyme hes certified your maiestie how far I haue bene wronged in that busynes, where the pretendit zeale whereof some makes professioun, causis them forgett both honestie and discretioun. Al- wayes it may veill content me to indure that which too often and most iustlie hes moved my gratious maister and foueranes owen patience. I doe not intend to be in the reverence of any of these people, if they will deliuer no more then treuth, and if your maiestie wald be pleased to direct my Lords St Androis and Glasgou to provyid many of our kirkes heir vith sik as wald not prefs to supplie there vant of good doctrine and paynes, and there private instructioun, with a pretendit outward schaw and pretence of devoted zeale, no doubt it wald try a great meanes to strethen them who ar meanly groundit, and to releve many vho daylie fall away. It is now four yeares since your maiestie had a letter of my hand-vritt, which may giue full assurance of my professioun. Intreating,



therfor, humble your maiestie to rest confident, notwithstanding of what-  
 evir falbe informed to the contrarie, vntill I fall refuifs the tuichstone of  
 all dew tryall, in geuing full satisfiactiōe to the most worthie fatheries of  
 the church, and secunditt by these who serue cuire vnder them, as they  
 themselfes doe most vorthely discharge there owen rōumes, and gives rea-  
 sone of your maiesties most iust prais, in making so good choice. And  
 praying the Almichtie God long to continow your maiesties long and  
 most happie gracious gouernment ower ws, I kifs your saered hand, and  
 restis

Your Maiesties most dewtifull subiect  
 and feruitour,

ANGUS.\*

Douglas, the 10 of October 1615.

To my most gracious and dreid Soue-  
 raigne, the Kingis most excellent  
 Maiestie.

CXLVII.—THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE TO JOHN MURRAY.

NOVEMBER 24, 1615.

RICHT HONOURABILL AND WEILBELOUED COUSING,

I thank ȝiow maist hartlie for ȝiour guid remembrance be ȝiour  
 lettir, quhilk I refaued fra James Bailȝie. As to that ȝiour lettir bearis,  
 ȝe hoiped to see me thair fhiortlie, treulie at the refaitt I marueled thair-

\* William, eleventh Earl of Angus. He succeeded his father (many of whose letters occur in the early part of this volume) in 1611—was created Marquis of Douglas, 18th June 1633, and died in the 71st year of his age, at Douglas Castle, 19th February 1660. He left the religion of his father, and became a Protestant.

off; for albeit the berar, James Bailzie, shiew to me, also, he was informed he wald meit me on my iornay be the way, at that tyme I knew off na apeirance nor rafoun thairfore; bot fenfyne, within this four dayis, my Lord Fentoun has signified to me be his lettir, it is maiesties gracious pleafour, at the queenis maiesties desire, that I fould cuim up fa sone as I may conuenientlie. For this present, I can nocht enterprife that iornay, for my bedfallow is on the point to be broght to bed within werie few dayis, and before shoe can be at that estaitt that I may weill leine hir, will be the dead off the zjeir, maist diffieill and hard to onye man to trauell, and I am now na chikkin, drawing to three score, was neiuwer werye ruide nor strong, albeit, nather too delicat nor sparing off my self. Alwayes fa sone as I can find I may weill tak toe to sic a voyage, I fall, be Goddes grace, mak zjow foresein off my intioun, and off my dyett; for I will alwayis be bath hamelie with zjow, and trubilsuim to zjow in all my adois.

All our estaitt heir is (praifed be God) fa quiett as can furnis us na subiect off occurrence to write off to our freindis. God hald all lang sua, and preferue our maist gracious fouerane and maister, quhome fra (vndir God) proceidis all this our calmnes, frome his wyfe, equitabill, and iust directions and ordonancis. Sua, wiffing zjow also all happines, I reste for eiuwer

Your louing Cousing alwayis at  
command,

DUNFERMELINE.

Frome Edinburgh, 24 Nouember 1615.

I desire this may remembir baith my bedfallowis and my maist hartlye kindnes to zjowr good halfmarrow. We wifs hir a good and blith deliuerie off hir burding to hir contentement and wifs, and to zjowris. Zje may

fhaw hir that hir ſpeciall guid freind, my dochter, my Ladye Eglintoun, has bein in parell off hir lyff, and is ʒit, albeit, now (praifed be God) fuim thing fofter ; for thoe was fallin in a haitt feiur tua dayis, before thoe was brocht to bed, and through that feiknes preueined hir tyme ten or twelf dayis : has now bein this 15 dayis in continuall vehement feuir, butt reft, and oft reuing ; this tua laft nights at fuim eafe and quietnes, ʒit werie feike and weake.

To the Right Honourable my weil-  
beloued Coufen, Jhone Morraye,  
in his facred Maieſteis Bedchalmer.

CXLVIII.—JAMES VI. TO THE LORD CHANCELLOR AND REMANENT LORDS  
OF THE COLLEGE OF JUSTICE.

DECEMBER 3, 1615.

JAMES R.

Right truſty and welbeloued coſen and counſellour, truſty and welbeloued counſelloures, wee greet yow well. Whereas wee were pleaſed this laſt ſummer that Commiſſioners ſhould be appoynted for ſurueying of all the coilheuches within ourre kingdome of Scotland, to the effect that before wee would graunt a licence for carrying of coilles to any forraine nation, it might be ſeriouſly conſidered whither the coilheuches of that kingdome might ſubſiſt and be maintained by their ordinarie ſale in furniſhing the cuntry about the places where they are ; togidder with the benefite arryſing by the number of thoſe coilles which are brought from thence to this ourre kingdome ; or if there were a neceſſitie for thair better maintainance, that a priuiledge ſhould be graunted for tranſporting them to other nationes, wee vnderſtand that a ſurwey was made for this effect, but for the preſent haue not beſyde ws your teſtimonie thereupoun.

Therefore oure pleafour is, that yow certifie ws what wes found by the Commission forefaid, with your judgement thereanent, that thereafter (haueing the reguard that is due to the goode of that oure kingdome) wee may resolue what is expedient for ws to be done ; fo, expecting your answeir, wee bid yow hartely farewell. Frome oure Court at Newmercat, the 3 of December 1615.

To oure right trusty and welbeloued  
Cofen and Counfellour, the Earle  
of Dumfermiling, oure Chancellour  
of Scotland : to our trustie and  
welbeloued Counfellouris, the rem-  
nant Lords of oure Colledge of Jus-  
tice of the faid kingdome.

CXLIX.—LORD CRANSTOUN TO JOHN MURRAY.

DECEMBER 9, 1615.

RYCHT HONORABIL,

Within this fourtnycht I haue wryttine tuo feuerall letters to  
zow, quhilk I hoip be cumit to zour handis : the one be my nephew, the  
schereife of Tivotdaill, the vthair be my fervant Niniane Armstrange.  
Quhat I wrett in thes letters, I hoip it will be neidles to repeat in this ;  
onlej this berer beinge dysposit to repair to courtt, I make bolde to re-  
mimber zow in all dewtej. I know the careierr will informe zow of the  
estait that zour sifter is in for the present,\* and quhat myghttej enemej hir  
husband and scho hes opynglej professit to their rueine. Itt is in zour  
handis to help for the present, and quhat ye will commande me to do to  
thair furder, affuure zowrsel I fall leiuie nothings vndoun that lvis in my

\* Jean Murray, who married John Maxwell of Kirkewine. Their son James was created by Charles I. Earl of Dirleton, Lord Elbottle in 1646. As the patent limited the earldom and barony to heirs-male of the body, the titles became extinct upon the demise of the earl, who left only two daughters, Ladies Elizabeth and Diana.

power. This muche I dysfyre zow to make account of, and so takis my  
leiue, and restis

Zowris ever aflurit to doo zow serveice,

W. CRANSTOUN.\*

Too the Richt Honourabill my verej  
kynd freinde, Mr Johnne Murrey,  
of his Maiesties royell Bedchalmer.

CL.—LORD SCOTT OF BUCCLEUCH TO [JOHN MURRAY?].

DECEMBER 9, 1615.

SIR,

I do vrett to you now in a subgett quhairin I did nott attend  
to haue had ony occaſſione, if them quhome it touches had had ony con-  
ſideratione off thair awin particular credit, lett be ony obligatione I nicht  
juſtly chaulengett for mony raifons. Robin Elliott† is on hys journay  
towards you for a particular quiche I thynk quhen you vnderſtand the  
verite, you vill nott approve hys faſſons. You remember for your re-  
ſpect I gave hym the faueur that mony having the raifons I had againſt  
hym, and thoſs advantages off revanche, vood a extenditt them more  
rigourouſly nor I did; yett, quhatt did paſſe, I eſtimett vell employtt for  
your regard. Att thatt tyme I paſſett hym hys infeſtment off lands,  
quhairin I hope he did ſignify to you he vaſs ſatiffiett fully by hys letter,  
and you alſo did ratify by a letter to myſelf of your pairt: he immediatly,  
eſter my ſigning of hys ſecuritie, gois and falſifis in the rycht I gauve  
hym, and inferts others lands in hys charter, quiche moſt evidently I vill

\* William Cranstoun, son of John Cranstoun of Moriestoun. He married Sarah, the heiress of Cranstoun—was captain of the guard to James VI., who knighted him, and thereafter elevated him to the peerage, 17th November 1609. He died in June 1627.

† Elliot subsequently attempted to assassinate Lord Buccleuch. See Melros Papers, vol. ii. p. 378.

prove, bothe by ocular inspectione, als also by other circunstances I vill felow att the triall thair of, vafs nott given hym by me : efter thys maner, he causis a vryter raise vp some wordes and put in others, als thai haue a trik to dow heir, them quho hefs no honesty to observe.\* Judge you if thatt man fould a carriett hymself to me in thatt forte. I kneve the humour off the man better nor you did; and you most remember I told you tharr vafs no honesty to be attenditt of hym. If you vnderstod hys particular cariage to them you fauour hym for, I am persuaditt you vood nott do for hym in indeferant ocaationes, lett be in thofs quhair he micht paraventure haue some raifone. Belieue this informatione vill prove iust to hys discreditt; and I am affeurett no man off honour bott vill reput hym naucht. It is nott only discreditt to hym, bot indangeris hys lyf to falsify ane infestement. I thoct expedient to acquent you with it, to the end you may affeure you off my iust deling, and thatt you kno hys ingrattitudes. I hope you vill thynk I do no thyng in it bott quhatt apertines to ane man off honour to do, quhen he finds hymself so ingratly and dishonestly vfett. So, remetting all to your considération, I rest ever hym quhome you haue most absolut pouer to command,

BUCKLEUGHE.†

Edinburghe, 9 December 1615.

I vifs I had ocaatione to fye you, quharby I micht informe more particularly off hys earriage to me.

\* Such practices as these were then common enough.

† Then Lord Scott of Buccleuch. He was not elevated to the earldom until 1619. His Lordship had the command of a regiment in the service of the States of Holland, and served with much reputation against the Spaniards. He was thus addressed by Arthur Johnston:—

*Arva dedit Scoto Rex Scotus, Belga dat aurum*

*Estque triumphatusserta daturus Iber.*

He died at London, on the 21st of November 1633, and his body was put on board a vessel for Leith, which arrived after a most tempestuous voyage, and after being nearly cast away on the coast of Norway. The corpse was carried to Branhholm, and his Lordship interred there. An account of the funeral ceremony occurs in "The Genealogical and Historical Tracts of Sir James Balfour," printed at Edinburgh, 1837, from the Balfour MSS. 12mo.

CLL.—SIR ALEXANDER HAY TO JOHN MURRAY.

DECEMBER 21, [1615?]

SIR,

There is nothing that I can wryite from henfe bot it is fo fpedely advertifed by thefe who haif the chaarge, that I holde it a neidlefs poynte in me to trouble any with renewing of ftate advertifmentis. Thir pairtes affordes not nather muche nor greit mater. So long as it pleifes God of his infinite mercye to prolonge our maifteris gracious governament over ws, there is nothing to be expected heir bot all dewtiful obedience; and albeit now and then there may fall out fome incidentis, fo is there no bodye of nevyr fo gode constitutioun, bot will haif a catharre, or fome other diftemperature. Alwayes our Iyles fervice is finifhed, and our lieutenant, the Erle of Argyile, returned yifternight, and wilbe with the counfell this day. By many it is thoght, that if goode will did fecunde the dewtye whiche they ar bounde to do, thir frequent iyland employmentis wald not occurre fo often. I wrotte to yow in my former lettres that account being takin what this Iyla hathe floode his maiefties coffers into thir tuo voyages, and fpecially in the accomptes of admiralitye there. I doubt if the rent of our whole Iyles will recompense it in ten yeir. Sen it is now quyted, it is fitting the purchessers of the new right ather secuire it heirefter, and difburdeyne his maiefties coffers of furdre chaarge, or then furrender it to his maieftie; for when thir employmentis ar fo profitabile in prefent pay, and a preparatioun for making fuite at courte for fervice done, how easie a mater it is to haif fome of thefe vnhallowed people, with that vnechristiane language, readye to furneis fresh wark for the tinker, and the mater fo caryed as that it is impossible to deprehend the plotte. But leiving this vntill the leutenant

mak a relatioun of his fervice, we haif had in the boundis of Cathnes, some barne yairdes brunte to the Lord Forbes, a barbarous actioun, and pernicious in so skairfe a year. Alwayes, howevir, baife lownes be actouris, it is muche to be feared that without setting on of greiter, these things wald not be interpryied. In the other pairtis of the cuntry there is greit quyetnes and obedience; and there is a very dewtifull nobleman, your maiche, the Erle of Kingorne deceifed,\* concerning whois wairde no doubt you will heir be the officeris whome it concernis, who in this same particular, without regaird of any manis swite, howevir otherwayes he affectis them, caryes no other founde bot a goode compositioun to his maiestie, and haiftenis to haif it put to the best, that suiteing and importuneing his maiestie there, hinder not his proffeit heir. We haif now ane act regiftrat in our exchecker bookis, whereof I can not find these hundreth yeiris past any lyike president, to witt, to lay vp so muche every moneth in stoire. It is one of the most dewtifull courfes that evir wes intendit for the kinges service; for if we had ones bot ten thousand pundis sterling in stoire, not to be stirred, the report of it wald do as muche to reteyne our peple in obedience as the interteyneing of a continuall garriefoun. The povertie of the crowne is the caus of the infolence oftentymes of people who propone to them selfis befor preparatioun can be made for thair perswite, ather a compositioun, or then tyme to escaipe; bot when it is knowne to be in reddynges, it will stay them to sturre. His maiestie will find the goode of this in a short progres of tyme; and I pray God that nothing from thense hinder the going forward of it. The Erle of Mar is there alreddy; we looke the chancellour fall shortly tak jorney. I pray God in these busynes of discovereyes whiche yow haif abowe, his maiestie may evir haif a regairde to himself; and yit I doubt not of Godes provydence for his preservatioun, for I am fully assuired of Godis mercye towardis me, that I fall prevent him, and that he fall longe continew efter; and if it be Godis pleafour, I haif no desyre as yit to end. In him is all our earthly happynes; and for my pairt,

\* He died December 19, 1615, which fixes the date of this letter.



I culd withe the laft confirmationn fuld come at the time of his vifiteing.  
 Lord keip him, and you yourfelf ftill attend him as you do; and fo I  
 reft

Youris at command,

ALEX<sup>r</sup>. HAY.

Edinburgh, 21 Dec<sup>r</sup>. [1615?]

To the Right Honorabill and his affiured  
 Mr Johnne Murray of Lochmaben, of  
 his Maiefties Bedchamber.

CLII.—SIR ALEXANDER HAY TO JOHN MURRAY.

DECEMBER 21, 1615.

SIR,

I muft begine with craiveing pardoun for my bypaft filence,  
 haveing this excufe, that in fo bufye tymes abowe, lettres, vnles they wer  
 of the more moment, might give mater of offence rather than content-  
 ment. To retribute complement for the fubftance of favour I reffaiue,  
 wer in me vndewtifulnes. I wrotte vnto you in a particular, and ob-  
 teyned not only the bufines difpatched by his maieftie, but fo recom-  
 mendit by your felf to him who wes to performe the refidew of it, as  
 haveing it all done, I muft confefs my felf your iuft debtour therefoir in  
 no les degrie then if it had bein your owne frie gift, and yit can offer no  
 more then what I wes formerly bounde, and fall evir remayne what I am  
 or evir falbe; and as beggeris do moſte importune where they come beſt  
 ſpeide, I muſt entreate you in the firſt occaſioun of any of your lettres to

my Lord Thesaurar, your coufeing, to give him thankes for his freyndly dealing in my bufynes, and I hope he fall not find it ewill bestowed. The other lettre\* I haif written to be shewin by you to his maiestie, if you think meitt, or suppressed; for I can wryite nothing bot what otheris may bothe preuent me, or wryite bettir; and yit I falbe loathe to wryite any thing bot the treuth. So, with remembrance of my humble dewty to your fueitt bedfellow, vnto whome I pray God grant my Lady Dumfermeling hir laite goode lucke, I tak my leive, resting,

At your service,

ALEX<sup>R</sup>. HAY.

Edinburgh, 21 Dec<sup>r</sup>. [1615?]

To his very honorabill and affuired  
freind, M<sup>r</sup> Johne Murray of Loch-  
maben, of his Maiesties Bed-  
chamber.

CLIII.—THE EARL OF CRAWFORD AND LORD SPYNIE TO KING JAMES VI.  
[1615?]<sup>†</sup>

MOST DREDE AND GRACIOUS SOUERANE,

We, your maiesties humble subiectis, the Erle of Craford,  
the Lord of Spynie, Anna and Margaret Lindfayis, dochteris to vmquhile

\* See preceding letter. The present one was entirely confidential.

† There is no date to this letter; but it has been placed by Balfour, whose arrangement, however cannot much be relied on, amongst those of 1615. Edzell seems to have been by no means in an enviable situation, for some years after the death of Lord Spynie. In a letter to the King, dated 16th August 1608,

Alexander Lord of Spynie, hering that the presbitrie of Edinburgh, and bishchopis of this 3our maiesties kingdome, hes enterit in deiling with the Laird of Edgzell for relaxatioun of him fra his excommunicatioun, without anie satisfactioun of 3our maiestie, or guidwill of ws, quhiehe fall neuer be without 3our maiesties speciall command for oure pairtis, we most humblie haue taken occasioun to pray 3our maiestie for iustice, and that 3our maiestie wald nocht fuller so hard ane preparatiue pas in oure contrare, quho hes no other protectioun, vnder God, bot 3our maiesties favour; and we dout nocht bot 3our maiestie will remember the one of ws wanting his vncle and dereft freind, the rest thair father, and hes left ws altogidder vnprovydit; and that pur estait quhilk it pleifed 3our maiestie of 3our most gracijs liberalitie to bestow vpone vmquhile the Lord of Spynie, 3our maiesties owne creatour, be his vntymle deith neir brocht to rowein. So, in all humilitie, we most humblie defyre 3our maiestie to send suehe ordour to the bishchopis, that thair be no favour schowne to that cruell murderer without 3our maiesties first satisfactioun: Praying to God for 3our maiesties monie happie dayis, we, as we aucht, fall ever remaine

3our Maiesties most humble and obedient subiectis,

CRAFORD.

SPYNIE.\*

To his most Sacrede Maiestie.

he states that he had "stayit heir in Edinburgh ane yeir bygane, and three months, crawling ewer to be tryit of the onhappy slaughter of my unquhill Lord of Spynie, qubairof I protest before God and your Maiestie I am maist innocent." He complains besides of the persecution of Lord Crawford in March 1609. See Letter, a previous part of this volume, where he accuses that nobleman directly of forgery,

- The second Lord Spynie.

CLIV.—SIR WILLIAM DOUGLAS OF DRUMLANRIG TO JOHN MURRAY.

JANUARY 6, 1616.

RICHT WORTHIE AND LOWING BROTHER,

Ȝe remember, in on of my former lettres, I schew ȝow that I had gotin sum tryall of that uyld and barbarous uillaine, quhilk was countit in the slaying of my scheip, quhen I was laft at court; quhairin I did than wreat ȝe more ſparinglye, being lothe (in reſpect of ȝour griter affairis) to trubill ȝow with it, till I had brocht it till ſum farther cleirnes, quhilk now I have done, and hes tuo fallowis preſentlie in hand that war aētoris in it, the on callit Jok Scott, the ſukler, quho hes confeſſit the ſimpell treuth in all poyntis, bothe of his auin pairte, and the reſt that war with him at that filthye aētioune, to wit, Geordie Scott, the fouter, callit Mariounis Geordie; Watt Scott, callit Braidis Wattie; Willie Scott, callit of Satchelis; and Ingrum Scott. This ſuccler in his confeſſioun he condifeendis cleirlye both vpoun the tyme, place, and forme of thair meiting and pairting, with all wther takinis and circumſtanceſ that paſt amongſt thame quhen they war togidder (as his depoſitioun beiris): Notwithſtanding, this vther, callit Geordie Scott, the fouter (quhom I have alſo in handis) ſtandis ȝit to his denyall. Altho they be many grit preſumptiounis of his guiltineſs, alwayis the ſuckler being fundry tymes examinat and confrontit with him befor the Lordis of Counfall, he abydis conſtantly at everye poynt of his firſt confeſſioun, and offeris nocht only to fecht the fouter in it, bot all the reſt, everie on of thame efter another, quhenſoeuer they can be had, gif it will pleis his maieſtie and the counfall to ſuffer him. The vther thrie ar fugitiues for that and other crymes of thift and ſlauchter; and, as I wnderſtand ar all out of the cuntray, ſum in Irland, and ſum ellis quhair; vtherwayis befor this tyme, I think I had fund meanis to have gotin thame in handis, ȝit (according till our auld Scottis proverb) “Ane Ȝule feiſt may be quat at Paſch,” quhen perhapis they may imagin it to be forget. In the meintyme, let me intreit ȝow, that ȝe will do me that fauour to motioun this maiter to his maieſtie, quhair-

by I may have it by his letter recommendit to the counfall, nocht only for the exact tryall and punisfement thair of to the daith, for the wrang that is alredie done, bot also to terrifie all other malefactoris from attempting the lyk heirefter: Quhilk, I protest to God, I poulder more in respect of the preparatiue and consequens that may follow thairpoun to the preiudice of the comoun weill of the countray, in cais it be lichtlie passit over vnpunisfhit, than for any particular of my avin. Now, gif 3e find it expedient, it war nocht amis, seing the chancler and seccitar (quha knawis the haill estate and progreis of this bussines) ar to be with his maiestie at court, that 3e sould haue thame neir hand by, quhen 3e propoun it to his maiestie, incais he happin to defyre thair opinioun in it. And this I wald befeik 3ow to do with all the conuenient haist 3ow can, that I may have 3owr ansuer, with his maiesties letter, befor the seinth or aucht of the nixt month; becaus I do intend, Godwilling, at thatyme to have thir tuo fallowis, at leist on of thame, put to the tryall of ane affyse, at quhilk tyme, if nocht befor thame, I do assur myself that God fall mowe the hart of him quho standis most obstinatlie to his denayall euin to confes the treuth, as the other hes done; albeit thair be sum busse headit men heir, quhom I will nocht name at this tyme, that wald wis the contrair, and ar deiling be all menis possibill, so far as in thame lyes, to that effect; bot be the grace of God, and his maiesties fauowr, with 3owr help, I howp to disapoynt thame. As for the rest of my particularis, I trust 3ow will nocht be forgetfull of thame, and quhen 3ow find 3owr auin tyme, will let me knaw, that I may luik for in thame. So I haue no more to say, bot alwayis efter on, I rest

3owris in quhat I can to serue 3ow,

DRUMLANRIG.\*

Edinburch, the vi. day of Januar 1616.

\* Sir William Douglas entertained James VI. at his house of Drumlanrig in 1617. He was created a peer by the title of Viscount of Drumlanrig, Lord Douglas of Hawick and Tibberis, to him and his heirs-male, bearing the name and arms of Douglas by patent dated at Whitehall, 1st April 1628. In 1633, he was advanced to the Earldom of Queensberry by patent, dated 13th June, with a similar remainder. He died 8th March 1640.

Now will do me the fauour to preſent my humbill ſeruice to your lady.

To his muche honoured and worthie  
 Brother, Jhone Murray of Loch-  
 maben, Grume of his Maieſties  
 Bedchamber, thes.

CLV.—THE EARL OF TULLIBARDINE TO JOHN MURRAY.

JANUARY 6, 1616.

LOVING COUSING,

I haue reſſenit your lettre from Royſtoun the 21 off December laſt. Albeit ye vill excuſe your ſelff, yit I vill enuer aqualedge your loue and kyndenefs, allthoo I knoo it hes not produſt ſuche effects as ye viſcht, yit it is not your fault. And whair as ye vrett that my honours fall be expeſte at my lords ſecretairs vpcumming, and, in the men tyme, that I take no noteiſe thairoff to any; I aſſure you, couſing, I haue careid myſelff ſo. Bot it hes fallin out vtherwayis, not be me, for me Lord of Scone, at his returne home, haid occaſion off conference with me Lord Chanſler, to whome he ſcheu his maieſteis gratius pleſour touarts me in that, vpon me Lord's demand, thinking he hed beine alls villing heirto, as off befor he hed proſſest, bot he fund him alltert and oppoſeit, and yit moir in forme than effect, bot houeuſe by not ſo as off befor; and at my leiuſe taking off me Lord Chanſler, he entert ſom thing vith my ſelff in that mater, to knau hou far vais proceidit thairin; bot I ſcheu his Lordſchip that I kneu nothing. His reſſone vais vpon the forme, which he thoct could not be be the Erll of Atholls demiffion in his auin tyme, bot only be vay off taillgie, as it fell to me Lord Eglingtonne. I denyed that thair vais ony ſuche mater concerning myſelff, and yit I reſſoned vith him that, be demiffione and reſignation, that mycht be be his maieſteis vill,

all is veill as if by this forme off taillzie, for boithe off them vair be difpofitions; albeit that off me Lord Eglingtones referued his lyffrent, and the vther not; nor could me Lord Eglingtonne haue fuccceidit to the laft, be refloñe of the ordinar taillzie, as nareft of blood, if it haid not beine refign'd be the laft lord in the kings hands, referuand me Lord Eglingtonne his lyffrent, and to this efter his difcefs: This he could not anfuer too. I fcheu him lykvaïs hou the Lord Ochilltry hes his honour and place as the laft lord and wtheris: Mycht it not be fo vith me, be all refoune? my vyffe being the Erlle off Atholls eldelt dochter, and, if his maieftie pleafed, fcho mycht boithe be lau and refloñae fuccceide to the honour and place off hir father. This he confeft vais treu; and fua I endit that difcours, affuring him that I kneu nothing off his maiefteis vill heirin. He vill impede all that he can; me Lord off Seone and I advyft vith me Lord Secretair, wha hes thoelt miteft that ve fould boithe vrett to you, that if ye could, it mycht be fent home fubferyvit, as I take it all redy togidder vith ane lettre to the counfell heir, and command to the keiper of the gret fell to pafs the fame vith diligence, and this to be donne befor me Lord Chanfler his cumming to court, fua that thinge being ons done, he valld be content. Conforme heirto, ve haue boithe vretin thir presents, and they ar to be fent poft be me Lord Secretair, to whome ve haue delyverit them. Cufing, doo heirin as ye vill, for if itt fall relieue this fecond lett, I vill haue the lefs houe, and I proteft to God I think moir off mens maleice nor I cair off ony thing ells. I vrett ane lettre to you laittly drect to me Lord off Seone and you boithe, tuitching the dethe of my Lord of Kingorne, and that ve compond for this lords vaird and marriage heir at home for twellff thoufand marks: my defyr to you boithe, as lykvaïs in my vther letter to my brother Sir Patrik, [is] to deill vith his maieftie if I mycht haue haid the compofition. What ye haue done heirin I knau not, bot I vald request you to be ane feuter at loft to affift Sir Patrik heirin, that his maieftie mycht be pleafd to grant it to me, for in confeience, cufing, ye knau my hellp off his maieftie as yit hes bein bot litill, and I doe all that I can to help ane diftreffit efteat. It may be that thair vill be vthers in fent off this off his maieftie, at me Lord Chanflers comming thair; and if it could be pre-

veind in tyme, I vald requiest you ernistly. Bot I remitt this to your awin discretion, and committs you to God. I rest

Yours euer assurit loving Cufing,

TULLIBARDINE.

Edinbro, the 6 off Janouer 1616.

CLVI.—FRANCIS, TITULAR EARL OF BOTHWELL, TO JOHN MURRAY.

JANUARY 8, 1616.

RIGHT HONORABILL AND LOVING FREIND,

It is not long since I trublit yow with ane lettre, with your brother in law of Laristane, quhairof I haue not yit receauit anfuere: Yit, not the les, the former prooffe I had of your wnderfuerd and wnaquyteable fauour imboldenis me agane to trouble yow, and maist earnestly to desyre your favourable assistance, your pouerfull intercession and great moyane, to the secoundung of this my most equitable and humble petition, quhilk the Lordis of our Counsell off Scotland, in my name, hes sent wnto his sacred maiestie, be his maiesties speciall command unto my selfe, quhen last I had the honor to kis his royall hands, commanding me quhatsumever I had to say vnto his maiestie in anye my awin particulars, at my returne to Scotland, to present it be petition to thair lordships, and to desyre thair lordships, in his most sacred name, to prefer my equitable, iust, and humble petition to his maiesties royall presence, to the quhilk his most sacred maiestie promeis ane gracious anfuere; assuring myselfe, if in this it fall pleas yow to honour me with your fauour, freindships, and assistance, to obtain my most equitable desyre, my petition being so iust and reasonable, as his most gracious ma-



iestie did never refuse the lyke to anye of his gyltles subiects. Leving, for tediousnes, the particulars of my petition, for your better instruction, I haue referred them to the sufficiencie of the beirar, Mr James Reath, feruitour to my Lord Chancellour of Scotland, quhom it will pleis yow to do me the favour to question in this matter: Him also haue I most earnestlie intreated to be, in my absence, agent at your hands for me; desyring yow most humbly, as euer I fall be redde to do yow seruice, that it wald please yow at all times quhen your moir serious ado is fall permit me the favour, that, being requyred of the beirar in my name to give your prefence to the heiring and assisting of my just cause, not to deny it. For the quhilk to the death, I fall rest

Euer obliged to do yow seruice,

FRANCIS STEUART.\*

Setoun, the 8 of Januar 1616.

To the Right Honorable and my  
verie loving freind, Mr Mur-  
ray of Lochmabane, one of his  
Maiesties Bedchalmer.

CLVII.—LORD SANQUHAR TO JOHN MURRAY.

JANUARY 9, [1616?]

RIGHT HONORABILL AND WORTHIE CUSSING,

My best luffe and dewtie rememberit, I haif refaiffed your letter daittit the 21 of December, frome Royflowne, quhairin I perfaiiffe that 3e, Sir, haiffe gottin fure resolution that my Lord Sanquharis sone

\* See page 294.

is ane and tuentie 3eiris compleit bygane at Santandrofe day; as also, Sir, 3e defyre me resolwe with my Lord Chanchler and Advocat quhat is best to be done, and the fame fall be followed with all faithfulness and expeditioun. As for answer, Sir, therto, within aucht dayis I fall wryt my awin oppinioun and the advocats to 3ow; and as for the chanchleris, his lordschip wes gone to curt befor I sawe this letter of 3owris, bot I fall wryt to his lordschip particulerlie in that bisshnes of myne, to conffer with 3ow at lenthe in it, and 3e and his lordschip, I dowl nocht, will resolwe on the best curfe concerning my weil. For I do trust in my Lord Chanchler as I do in 3ow, Sir, for I haif greit pruffe of his lordschippis fawour in my greitest bisshnese; and, Sir, as ewer I may be eble to serwe 3owr plefour, let his lordschip sie that for my cause, 3e will haife so muche the greitter cair to stand freindlie to his lordschip, and spair nocht to let his lordschip knawe, albeit 3e neid nocht my fute, howe ernist I am with 3ow to plefour his lordschip: And, Sir, I ernistlie requist 3ow ower agane to do the chanchler all the gud office lvis in 3ow; for, Sir, confidder he mey do 3ow gud office in oure cuntrie; and giffe 3e wnderstude his lordschip reichthlie, 3e wald find his lordschip ane worddie man; and I dar assure 3ow, the more 3e haiffe ado with him, Sir, 3e fall ewer find the moir worthe in his lordschip; and giff it wer wtherways, I protest to God, I wald nocht affirme the fame to 3ow as I do, for all the erthe; and the onlie cause makis me, Sir, to wryt this ernistlie to 3ow is pertlie out of my lowe to 3ow, as lykwyse for the luffe I carie to his lordschip, and that quhilkis last of all, I knawe his lordschip to be ane of the honestest myndit men within oure kingdome, and it is ewer sik men I wald wisse 3ow to be in greitest formes with. And as for my place in cunsell, Sir, 3e haif werie fite tyme now to deill in it, for thair is twa places in cunsell waikand; the ane is my Lord of Gingsornis\* place, and the wther is Mr George 3owngis place, quha ar baith laitlie disseillit at the plefour of God. My Lord Henzie† wes plecid on the cunsell this last cunsell day, and I lukit, Sir, to haif cumit alse gud speid as any in oure cuntrie that wald haif bein futteris for the fame, alweyes quhat fall I sey, I am a lytile disap-

\* Patrick, ninth Lord Glamis, and first Earl of Kinghorn, died the 19th of December 1615.

† The Earl of Enzie, afterwards second Marquis of Huntly.

poynttit of my expectationis; bot, Sir, do 3e in it as 3e pleis. Sir, I knawe gif his maiestie speik the chanchler any thing concerning me or my biffines, the chanchler will report better of me nor I am worthe: and I recommend that turne, tuiching my place in confell to 3owr doing, Sir, with als greit expedition as may be, as 3e haif done mekill mair for me. Sir, I am verie diligent [at] present till trying the secreteit of my Ladie Thorothoreells lyfrent, and fall with the first cettation adwertise 3ou quhat I learne of the fame, bot I can proceid no forder bot be on my tryell till I heir frome 3ow, quhat 3e haif done thereanent 3ourself. Sua, I fall ewer continew 3owr effectiōat cussing to ferwe 3ow,

SANQUHAIR.

Frome Edinburgh, the 9th of Janarey  
[1616].

Sir, speik me Lord Secreitter on my biffines, that if Roxbruche enter my wey with his Lordships, that he may schewe Roxbruche ther is no helping in that perticuler be lawe to be lukit for to the Lord Sanquhars fone, as lykweyis that his Lordship ley downe no wther curfe to Roxbruche in my contrair.\*

To his muche honnoreit gud freind,  
Johne Murrey of Lochmeben, on  
of his Maiesteis Bedchamber,  
theife be givin.

\* 18th September 1616. "Thair is charges direct against William Creichton, bastard son to the late Lord Sanquhar, and the Laird of Drumlaig, one of his curators, to compear before the counsall-day, the nint of October, now approaching, for satling that mater betuix the Lord Sanquhar and him. The Lords of Roxburg and Buccleugh, vther tuo of the saids curators, being personalie present with the Lord Sanquhar, ar warnit heirof *apud acta*, and promised to keep the said day." Note of Privy Council proceedings. The result of the proceedings on that day was transmitted to the King by the Privy Council, and the letter on the subject will be found in the Melros Papers, vol. i. p. 264.

## CLVIII.—THE EARL OF ERROL TO JOHN MURRAY.

JANUARY 12, 1616.

Richt Honorabill and my luifing freind,

Howfocuir hithertillis I haif neur found the meanes, in any fort, to oblishe 3ow vnto me, 3it, wnderftanding be findrie aduerteifmentis from my fonne, and laftly mair particularlie fra my fonne, my Lord Erkin, 3our luifing kindnes and ondeferwit fauour to my fonne; as I find myfelf werie far indebtit to 3our courtesie, fa can I not omit heirby to rander 3ow maift hertlie thanks for the fame, defyring alwayis the continewance of 3our regard to him; lyk as, gif be 3our furtherance he find good fucces in his effairis with his maieftie, as he will thairby be the mair able to ferue his maieftie and his luifing freindis, fa fall 3e reft affurit, that wherin I and he can ferue 3ow or any of 3ouris to good offices, 3e fall find 3our kyndnes thankfullie acquyted in what we can be worth, praying 3ow to mak ufe of ws as occafioun fall offer. Sa, remitting all farther to 3our luifing confideratioun, my hertly affectioun rememberit, I reft for euir

3our maift luifing freind,

ERROLL.

Erroll, 12 Januar 1616.

To the Richt Honorabill my luifing  
freind Johne Murray, one of his  
Maiefties Bedchalmer.

## CLIX.—THE EARL OF CAITHNESS TO KING JAMES VI.

JANUARY 26, 1616.

MOST GRASIOUS SOUERENE,

The occatioune that hes moued me to fashe your maiestie with this my letter, is the malicius malice of my iuill difposid nightbouris, quha neuer ceases to do me vrang, and to inuent calumneis aganest me, to incens your maiesties vrathe aganest me. Thay haue inuentit ane most odious and ane inhumane lie, as my Lord Binning and Jhone Murray wille informe your maiestie at grytter lenthe, whilk thay wald, if thay could, mak me to be the authore of (wheche inuentioun will not content thame, all thocht that the world knauis my innoferie, and hes offered myselfe to the tryell of your maiesties most honorabill counsell, if I could find ane accuser). Thay haife preaced to fuborne brokin men to lie wpone me, be promising thame bothe land and geare, as I fall qualifie; thinking throw the intollarabill wrangis I daylie suffline, I will be compelled to do fume thingis aganest thame for my creditis cause, to brake your maiesties peace, and be that mine to make me to lose your maiesties fauour. My ennimeis ar many and malifus: (my confort is) I knaw your maiestie is wyfe, and will wy my willing hairt to do your maiestie seruice, with the malice and numer of my fois. I confidder with my selfe thair is no remaneing heire to me, feing I will be forsed to parrell your maiesties fauour, or then to suffer bothe schame and skethe, quhilk is hard to ane nobill hairt. God of his mercie grant me pascius to I heire from your maiestie, and knaw your will. I most humble bege at your maiesties most gracios hands, not for enny thing that is in me, nor enny merit that euer I haife deserued, or is abill for to deserue; bot for Godis cause lat me haife ane iust tryell and iustife, so to your maiesties most admirabill wifdome will tak suche ordoure, that according to your maiesties plesoure, and my good intenioun, I haif occatioun to liue in peace. I tak my liue, with all hu-

militie, wifhing your maieftie many and happie dayis, withe all contentment that your awine haire wald wifhe. I fall euer remane

Your Maiefties moft hounille feruand to the deithe,

CAITHNES.\*

Caftill Sinclair, 26 Januar 1616.

To the King his moft Sacred and  
Excellent Maieftie.

CLX.—THE COUNTESS OF EGLINTOUN TO [MRS MURRAY?]  
1616.

MY DEARE AND LOUING BROTHIER,†

I did reseaue your kynd and wealkom letter from Sir Daued Morray, which did infinitie content me boeth by the pleafing newis of her maiefties good helth, and her fingullar fauour showed to you in this fullich falling out of Sumerfyds with you, to his oune grit difgrace, which hes med him fo heated of thofs hear that ar bound to you, and knowes your trew worth and his fallshoud, that if ther war non but your feruant my housband, he wold, if it war exceptable to you and nescier, vndertak to pruf him ane erand lyare in that he wret to you, and meffage fent with that vngret fullich coufing of yours, Herie Gib.‡ I long now to hear what fatiffacione is med vnto her maieftie and you. I pray God increfs her gritnefs with the king, and eftimacione and loue of the piple, with

\* George, fifth Earl of Caithness. He died in 1643, aged 78. A worthless nobleman, even for those times. His base betrayal of the unfortunate Lord Maxwell is an indelible stain on his memory.

† So in the original, but the letter is evidently addressed to the lady of John Murray.

‡ It may be inferred, from the strong language used against Somerset, that the favourite was then tottering. This letter was probably written early in the year 1616, as Somerset and his infamous wife were brought to trial on the 24th of May in that year.

ane long and hapie raining ouer ws. I was mor then desyrous to haue hard the fertantie of thes things from you, and especialie concernig your owne helth, which I pray God may be good, and I doubt not of your wealfear vther ways, but I proteſt your ſiklines, when I hard it, did mor griue me then yee can imagine, and I was neuer content till ye wret to me of your better helth: God of his merſie increſs it whileſt I liue. As concernig thoſe particulars yee deſyred me, I haue bein courious for your ſateſſaſſione to tray them, and ſyndis that my Lord Ab[ercorn?] dois eſſeim him ſelf bound to my Lord Chamberland \* for no thing but fear wordes, and thinkis him proud and ſeeleſs; and I haue this out of his owne moueth, that he could haue found in his hert to haue foughtin him in your qwarell. Boeth hee and Sir Wiliam Setoun did much preſs your good interteanment at your owne hous, and kyndoes to me. We haue bein all at Jhon Achamutis† wading to Sir Wiliams dochter, wher yee was oftin remember'd. As for my Lord B. hopes they ar but finall, as I euer doubted. It was thoght that Sir James Stewart, now Lord Oc[hiltrie]‡ did put him in hop the chamberland wold doe much for him, and when he found himſelf deſeu'd at his coming to court, I think he was aſhamed to enter with you, in reſpect he did not creue your opunione nor your houſbands in this vp coming; but as I did expect, he rewis it. I pray you lat me know what is don betwext your houſband and Louchinvar§ concernig thoſe lands he hes in wadſet in Loudiane, for Louchinwar gaue it out that ye had agried with him for his right, but I remember ye med me once diſſuad my ſiſter and her houſband to giue ther conſent to him, ſo I can not think ye ar agried, but if it might content you or your houſband, they wold giue it to your ſelf, but not to him; ſo I expect to hear from you concernig thoſe matteres.

Now, dear brother, I can not omit to giue you thanks of the infiniet

\* Earl of Somerset.

† John Auchmootie, Groom of the Bedchamber, afterwards knighted.

‡ Upon the 9th of June 1615, Sir James Stewart of Killeith obtained a charter to the lands and barony of Occhiltree. Wood's Douglas, vol. ii. p. 329.

§ Sir Robert Gordon of Lochinvar. He married Lady Isabel Ruthven, daughter of the Earl of Gowrie, by whom he had John, created, in 1633, Viscount Kenmure and Lord Lochinvar.

fauouris boeth you and your worthie housband at all ocaſionis fellowis to me and my housband; and now in haueing ſuch ane car at my Lord Glenkern, got no thing don in our preiougice. Ther was ane letter procour'd from his maieſtie to my lord, in fauours of the Lerd of Eakat, which he hes ſent the anſur of to your housband to preſent to his maieſtie, with the trew informacione of the eſteat of that erand; and I moſt intret you to inſiſt that he will haue ane care that his maieſtie does not belieue anie wrong informacione of our vnfrends. My lord hes his ſeruice remember'd vnto you, as to her whom he thinks himſelf mor bound vnto then he is able to requyt: Boith he and I am affhamed that as yet we haue in no meſour but good will requyted the infinit obligacie we owe you; but I with we may liue no longer if yee haue not full powar to comand ws in what is in our pouar to plesour you and your housband, whois imploymentis we long for. I will ſay no mor, but hopes ye will do it ſhortlie; as I wiſh it to be alſo trew that my Lord of Skun hes givet Fakland to you alredie, but I pray you lat me hear of it from your ſelf, which will mak me haue the greter deſyre to liue and ſie you ther as I wiſh. My good Ladie Mar, preſſed be God, growis ſtronger the neirer her tyme aproches. Her ſonne, my Lord Bouchan,\* and the Erell of Routhous,† beifs boeth wadet this nixt wiek to their young brydes. God giue them much ioye. My Ladie Erſkins dochter is departed this lyf, but groues fat herſelf. Your ſonnes, Hew and Henrie, is in good helthe, thanks to God, and I truſt ſhall be men to ſerue you, and efter Mer-timeſ I expeſt yee will pray for me, that I may bring fureth this chyld, and liue to deferue your innumerable kyndneſes; but houſoouer, ye

\* James, eldeſt ſon of the ſecond marriage between John ſeventh Earl of Mar and Lady Stewart, married Mary, Counteſs of Buchan in her own right, and thereupon he aſſumed the title of Earl. On the reſignation of his wife, a royal charter of the earldom was, 22d March 1617, granted to the counteſs and her husband, in conjunct fee and liferent, and to the longeſt liver of them, and the heirs-male of their marriage, whom failing, to the neareſt lawful heirs-male and assignees whatſoeuer of the ſaid James Earl of Buchan.

† John fiſth Earl of Rothes, whoſe *Hiſtory of the Church* was recently printed as a contribution to the Bannatyne Club, married Lady Ann Erſkine, ſiſter of Lord Buchan, and ſecond daughter of John Earl of Mar. He died 2d May 1640.



shall neer shew fauour to anie that boeth in lyf and death shall trewlier  
reft

Yours most fathfulie affectionat  
euerie way,

ANNA C. EGLINTOUN.\*

My ladie, my good mother, remembers her louing dewtie vnto you and  
to your housband.

CLXI.—THE EARL OF LOTHIAN TO KING JAMES VI.

APRIL 10, 1616.

MOST GRATIOUS SOUERANE,

I resseaut your maiesties lettre, beiring that as your ma-  
iestie wes gratioullie pleist to grant your remissioun to Johnnestounburne,  
fo your maiestie wald wische that your clementee wer extendit towardis  
his estait; and thairfoir defyreing me, that these landis whilk I posses be  
his forfaytour shuld be restoirit bak vnto him, he giueing vnto me suche  
satisfactioun as my vmquhile father offerit to haue acceptit. As in all  
dew submissioun and reuerence, I acknowledge myself bundin to acquiesce  
in euerie thing to your gracious maiesties will and pleafour, seing nothing  
can proceed frome your maiestie bot that whilk is weill groundit vpoun  
infallible reasoneis of equitie and gude conscience, so, laying asyde all  
priuate consideratioun whilk I might haue pretendit on that foirfeytour,  
as being disponit vnto me be your sacred maiestie, in remembrance of

\* Lady Anne Livingstone, eldest daughter of Alexander first Earl of Linlithgow, and wife of Alexander sixth Earl of Eglintoun. She died November 1632. This letter has no address, but was probably written to the wife of John Murray.

fum ȝeiris feruice and attendence vpoun your maieſtie, I wes content to enter in a freindlie commoning with him. And firſt, I vrgeit that poynt mentionat in your maieſties lettre, anent the conditioun paſt betwixt my father and him, being reſoluit yf it had bene cleirit to haue gevin vnto your maieſtie ſatiffactioun thairin, bot he wes nocht abill to qualifie nor inſtruct ony ſuche conditioun; and he haueing failzeit in this, I proponit vnto him the judgement of indifferent freindis, quhilk wes acceptit; bot theſe quhilkis wer for him ſtoode ſo preceiſſie vpoun his richt, whilk wes befor his forfeytour that thay ſuſſerit the ſubmiſſioun to deſert; as more particularlie the berare heiroy, Sir Williame Balfour, who wes one of the commoneris, will informe your maieſtie, in eurie circumſtance, to quhois relatioun I refer the ſame. And ſo, humble befeiking your ſacred maieſtie nocht to harken to the reporte of my pairtye, bot to think of me as of one who in ſinceritie of trew affeetioun, with all ſubmiſſiue obedience, ſalbe willing and reddie, with the beſt of my indevoiris, to ſerue your maieſtie in what I am abill to do, I end with my hartye and humbill prayeris vnto God for the lang continwance of your graceis moſt bliſſit and happie regne, and I do reſt for euir

Your Maieſties moſt humbill and  
obedient ſeruitour,

LOTHIANE.\*

Newbottill, the tent of Aprile 1616.

To the King his moſt ſacred and  
excellent Maieſtie.

\* Robert, ſecond Earl of Lothian, ſucceeded his father, Mark, the firſt Earl, in 1609, and died 15th July 1621.

## CLXII.—LORD MELVILLE TO KING JAMES VI.

APRIL 1616.

IT MAY PLEIS YOUR MAIESTIE,

Your gracious fauour conftanis me to tak the bauldnes, humblie wpon my knees, to give your hienes moft humble thankis for the monye benefeittis I haif refaut of your maieftis liberalitie, and not the les of my abfence frome your maieltie thir ten 5eiris paf. It hes pleafit your maieltie to remember me with moir fauour in honoring me with the name of ane barroun, then I can deferue; quhilk mowis me to be fo far obleift in affection and loue to your maieftis feruice and pleafour, as to omit no occafion quhairin I may gif pruiſſ of my fidelitie. At my laſt depairting frome your maieltie, it pleafit your maieltie to command me to aduerteife your hienes of the eftait of this cuntrye, quhilk hes beine in gret quyetnes, and your ſubiects maiſt loving to obey all your maieftis direktionnes. And at this preſent, haiffing ſua guid occafion to mak your maieltie aduerteifment of our happie eftait and governement, I vill forbear the wayne byward, quhilk men of my age is accuſtumat to utter, quhilk in effect is to praife the dayis and 5earis bypaſt, and the preſent to be eiwill; albeit the treuth is, I haue continowit longer in your maieftis and princie predeceſſoris feruice, then ony parfoun this day living; and all the faid 5earis we was deſtitut of the trew religioun, our cuntrye being full of barbarity, deidlie fedis, and oppreſſiounes. Since the tyme your maieltie tuik the manymment of the effairis of your princie dominionnes in your awne hand, all your hyenes cuntreis hes beine peaceible and quyet; and ſpeciallie this cuntrye, quhair the trew religioun flouriſſis, and juſtice ſua veill miniſtrat be your electioun of your faithfull officiaris, as I may be bauld to affirme, that no cuntrye is in ane mair happie eftait, and hes bettir occafion to be thankfull to

God, and faithfull to your maiestie. Thair is sic loue borne to your maiestie, as your officiaris stryves amongis thame felkis quho fall do best, being presentlie in hand to decoir all deformiteis in this cuntrye that hes beine ouerseine in tymes past, and speciallie your maiesteis houffis, and the Castell off Edinbrughe sau weill orderit, as I hoipe it salbe to your maiesteis guid contentment; and the present officiar in the thesaurie\* verrie panefull and diligent in repairing the rest of your houffis, quho omittis no occasioun to put all the rest to the fame poynt. Haiffing tane the bauldnes to be so tedious to your maiestie, efter I kyffit your maiesteis hand, I humblie tak my leiff, praying God to grant your maiestie monie long and happie dayis, in quahis protectioun I commit your maiestie.

Your Maiesteis most humble and obedient subiect  
and seruitor,

R<sup>t</sup>. MELUILL.†

To the Kingis Maiestie of Great Brytane.

CLXIII.—FRANCIS, TITULAR EARL OF BOTHWELL, TO KING JAMES VI.  
MAY 26, 1616.

MOST GRATIOUS SOUERANE,

The heighe benefite laitlie granted to me be your maiestie, in granting me acces to your sacred presence, being the thesaure incomparable; as also the former favour in the purches of my wyfe (being, according to the coustume of all other daft youthes, than the first of my

\* Sir Gideon Murray.

† There is no date to this letter, but it must have been written about the time the patent was passing the seals, creating Sir Robert Lord Melville.

vishes), hes emboldened me, with a few lynes, in all submiffion and humilitie, to giue your maieftie, fo gracious a fouerane, moft hartie and humble thanks for both, that hes fo gratiouflic overfhaddoued me with fo great and fauorable benefitis, and that of free grace, and but any my merite, being the poore diftreffed fone of ane unhappie father, your owne creature, enriched with fauour, honor, credite, and all other felicitie, aboue his or any other fubiects merite: ay, and quhile his brutifhe, hay-nous, and deteftable defection, and fo iuftlie defervand to himfelf and all his pofteritie tenfold more heauie and fharp adlictiones and punifhment then ewer befell ws; whairin I haue no other meafour to beg, bot willinglie to fuftene and indure fo mony as your moft excellent maieftie pleafis to inioyne, being the prince leifand who beft knowis what of law, reafone, equitie or conſcience, aught to be done. I haue nothing to prefent to your maieftie bot a loyall hart, a faith onſpotted, placing my being in your maiefties fole fauour, and more willing, then to leif, to facrafize my lyfe at any occaſion in your maiefties ſervice. Moft humble begand that your maieftie wold be gratiouflic pleaſed to eſteme of me that your command falbe the rewll of my lyfe, no wher ellis fall I feik fauour. If any it fall pleas your ſacred maieftie to beſtow, whatſoener be the meafour thereof, I fall reſt and acquieſce thairat with contentment, and fall ſpend my hole studie and cair to pleas, and nowayis offend your maieftie, to my lyfis end. Humble prayand the Eternall to grant bothe your maiefties, your childrene and pofteritie, all temporall and eternall felicitie,

Your Maiefties moſt humble and obedient ſeruiteur,

FRANCIS STEUART.\*

Seton, 26 Maij 1616.

To his moſt ſacred Maieſtie.

\* Eldeſt ſon of Francis Stewart, the turbulent Earl of Bothwell. He married Lady Isabella Seton, only daughter of Robert, firſt Earl of Winton. His ſon and heir, Charles, is ſaid to have been a trooper in the civil wars, and the prototype of Francis Bothwell, the dashing cavalier, in *Old Mortality*. From the kirk-ſeſſion records of Perth, it appears that a ſon of his received alms as a pauper—a melancholy proof of the inſtability of human greatneſs.

## CLXIV.—THE EARL OF MONTROSE TO KING JAMES VI.

AUGUST 27, 1616.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR SACRED MAIESTIE,

As I did præsume to acquaint your hienes with the progres of the Affemblie from Aberdein, so nou I doe vith the finifching thair of, which (according to that happie fucces vhairwith God hes alwayis bliffed your maieftis most gracious æctionis) is concludit, vith great contentment of all eftatis. The Marquis of Huntly keipitt the day apoyntit; vhaire itt vas aduysitt that the archbifchopis, vith the præfident and certane vtheris, fchould firft deall with him, to refolue his doubtis; lyke as, I did particularlie defyre him to remember your maieftis gracious fauour towardis him, and obey your hienes directionis. He, efter fum difficulteis, condefenditt to cum before the Affemblie and giue fatifaction, vhair the Archbifchop of Sanctandrois did fo vyfelie moderat, that the Marquis gaue humble obedience, and the church receaued full contentment; and efter opin reading of thois thingis enacted, according to your maieftis direction, and receauing of certen fpeciall citizenis of Aberdein fufpect of Poprie, and thair publick affenting to the particular Articles of the Confession of Faith eftablifchitt at this Affemblie, the fam vas concluditt vith generall applaufe, all praifing God, and praying for long continuance of your maieftis happie raing. As to my felf, altho I haue bein villing at this tym to difcharge that humble and faithfull deutie, which I am alwayis bund to perform in your maieftis feruice; zitt, the good fucces of all dois onlie proceed from your maieftis godlie, vyfe, and happie deffeingis, which the Lord fo vonderfullie prosperis, that ve, your maieftis faithfull feruandis, ar more and more encourgitt to proffrat our lyuis, for the aduancement of vhattfumeuer your maieftis feruicis; lyk as, I doe particularlie acknauledge myfelf infinitlie tyed to

your maiesties most gracious remembrance and trust to me, which, in all humble and faithfull obedience, so long as I leive, I schall studie to deserve, and schal be most readie to feall with my blood. Remitting the more particular relatione to the archbischopis, in all humilitie, I kifs your hienes handis, praying God for the long continuance of your maiesties prosperous estate and happie raigne over vs,

Your Maiesties most humble and obedient subiect  
and seruitor,

MONTROSE.\*

Newmontrose, the 27 of August 1616.

To his most Sacred Maiestie.

CLXV.—THE EARL OF HOME TO THE LORD CHANCELLOR.

DECEMBER 8, 1616.

MY LORD,

I heare, by my Lord Hamilton, that Frances Stewart has submitted all his differences with all partes to the kinge, and that there is a blanke left to bee filde up with my sonnes name; and that if it weare thought fit by my sonnes frendes, that he shoulde come in, that I shoulde aduartis your lordship, that his name might bee containde in the sub-

\* John, fourth Earl of Montrose, married Lady Mary Ruthven, eldest daughter of William, first Earl of Gowrie. He was the father of the celebrated Marquis of Montrose. His lordship died 24th November 1626.

mishtjon. Trewly, my lord, I coulde haue wisht his parte of that bifnes had not byn to haue fetled, tel his yeayrs had giuen him tow underfstande beter, that he might haue byn a dealer for his oune composithyon; but now I see no remedey but it must be ventred. God fende him finde as much fauer at the kinges handes as the rest. I haue writin to my Lord of Morton\* to seeke his opinion heare in, and if he thincke as I dow, then that he will speacke with your lordship, and that you will bee plesde to let his name bee put in. The great fauor that your lordship hathe euer shoune to him in his prefence, I must humbly bege the continuance of in his abfence; and as I haue founde already your lordships respect and care of him to haue prefarued him from many inconuenentes, so in that must I repose his safety still to protect him fram the maney ingures of so maney malishtyus, unconftyonat peple, that are continewalley plotinge his hurt. For which he will be bounde with his utormost induers to dow farues, and myfelfe to remayne,

Your Lordships trewly affectionat frende and feruant,

HOME.†

London, this 8 of December [1616?]

To the Right Honorabill my Lord  
Chanslor.

\* William, Earl of Morton, born 1582, served heir to his father Robert, 3d July 1605, and to his grandfather, 4th November 1606. He died in Orkney, where he had retired during the great civil war, 7th August 1648, in the 66th year of his age.

† From the writer mentioning that he had a son, he must have been Alexander, sixth Lord, and first Earl of Home. He died 5th April 1619. His son James, though twice married, had no issue by either of his wives, in consequence of which the titles, upon his death, in the month of February 1633, in virtue of the remainder to heirs-male whatsoever, devolved on Sir James Home of Coldingknows.



## CLXVI.—THE LORDS OF THE PRIVY COUNCIL TO KING JAMES VI.

MARCH 14, 1617.

MOST GRATIOUS AND SACRED SOUERANE,

We refflaut your maiesties lettre tuitcheing that overtur and propositioun maid vnto your maiestie, anent the making of linning cloathe in this kingdome in another foirt and maner nor formarlie hes bene wrought heir, and tuitcheing the making of goode and sufficient tyill for building and felaitting of housis at lowe raittis; whairin it wes your maiesties pleafour to crave our aduise and opinioun, yf the preuilege foght of your maiestie for this purpois myght importe ony benefeit or preiudice vnto the cuntrie. As with all dew reuerence and most humble thankis, we acknowledge your maiesties faderlie cair, and the respectiue consideratioun whilk your maiestie hes ever had of the publiēt goode of this your maiesties kingdome, in being so spairing to yield to ony overturis and propositionis of the natur and qualitie foirfaid, whill first your maiestie communicat the same vnto your maiesties counfall heir; whairin it becometh ws in all sinceritie and esauldnes, without ony privat respectis or consideratiounis to present oure simple and waik opinionis and iudgement vnto your sacred maiestie. So, we haueing at lenthe conferrit, reafouned, and consultit vpoun the benefeit and inconuenientis whilk by the overtur foirfaid, and preuilege foght of your maiestie for that purpois, may result to this kingdome, we do find the overtur and propositioun foirfaid, alueuele anent the working of the cloathe, as of the tyill, in the forme and tennour as is confavit in your maiesties lettre to be necessair and verye expedient to be imbraceit, and to importe the publiēt goode and benefeit of the kingdome, and that a preuilege for some certane yeiris may be grantit to that effect, respect being alwayes had to the terme of the preuilege, and that the same be for fuche a reaounable space as nouthir

your maieſteis ſubiectis haif iuſt caus of greif and complaynt, as being fruſtrat of the hoipis of thair awne labouris and traveillis in leirning of the faidis workis, nor yitt that the vndirtakaris of thir workis haif mater of grudge and miſcontentment, and ſo be diſcourageit to proſequute and follow oute the worke. And ſo, with oure humble and hairty prayeris vnto God, recommending your ſacred maieſtie, with all your royall progenye, vnto his diuyn and fatherlie proteſtioun, we reſt for ever

Your Maieſteis moſt humble and obedyent  
ſubiectis and ſeruitouris,

SANCTANDROIS.

BLANTYRE.

A. ELPHINSTON.

JO. PRESTOUN.

ALMUSSAR.

GLENCAIRNE.

WIGTOUN.

ROSS.

R. COKBURNE.

CL[ERICU]S REG[ISTR]1.

Edinburgh, the xiiij day of Marche 1617.

To the King his moſt ſacred and excellent  
Maieſtie.

CLXVII.—ARTICLES GIVEN BY THE JUSTICES OF PEACE FOR ABERDEEN.  
[1617]?

ARTICLIS giuine in be the Juſtices of Peace within the ſchirefdome  
of Aberdeine to the Lordis of his Maieſteis Secreit Counfall.  
for Reformatione of the Abulis following.

In the firſt, becaus their ar diueris vagabundis within the ſaid ſchiref-

dome, quha ar giltie of thiftis, pykrie, and robing, and vther fufpect perfones of thift, quhais punishment and tryell is neglectit be the fheriffis, thairfor, the faidis Juftices of Peace cravis ane commiffione to be givine to thame to try and punifh fik perfones.

Item, becaus the faid fchirefdome is verie fpacious, and quhen any perfones ar apprehendit within the faid fchirefdome, be the faidis Juftices of Peace, quhais transportation to the brugh of Abirdeine, is verrie expensive, daingerus, and trubillfome to the faidis Juftices of Peace, thairfor, it is cravit that jeyollis and ward-houffis may be buildit be the faidis Juftices of Peace within evrie prefbetrie of the faid fchirefdome; and for that effect, that the half of the fynis may be allowit to the faidis Juftices of Peace for building thairrof.

Item, becaus the clerkis, officeris, and remanent memberis of court will not exerce thair functionis without fyme reffonabill fatiffactione for thair paines, thairfor, it is cravit that ane compitent fie be modifeit, to be payit to thame of the firft and reddieft of the faidis fynis.

Item, becaus the faidis Juftices of Peace, haveing presentit captives and malefactouris to the fchireff of Abirdeine his deputis, and to the provett and bailleis of the faid brugh, thay refuife to accept thame af thair handis, thairfor, it is cravit that fyme expedient cours may be takine thairanent.

Item, becaus thair ar diveris parochines within the faid fchirefdome, quihilk hes no jeyoll or ward-hous; thairfor, it is cravit be the faidis Juftices of Peace, that thai may have power to ward the perfones to be takine be thame, within thair awin duelling houffis, quhill jeollis be buildit, or that the prifoneris may be convenientlie transportit.

Item, becaus the perfonis vulawit be the Juftices of Peace will not willinglie mak payment of the fynis and vulawis, it is thairfor cravit that

lettres of homing, poinding, and vtheris exe[cutoria]llis neceffair, may be direct vpon the actis maid be the faidis Justices, for recoverie of payment thair of, and of the contrabutione to be imposit for fusteinynge of the puir of the indigent perfoncs.

Item, to remember to speik my Lord Chancellour that quhilk I am directit be tonge.

CLXVIII.—JAMES VI. TO THE PRIVY COUNCIL.

[JUNE 1617.]

IT coulde not bot be verie greeuous vnto vs if the earnest desire wee haue longe had to visite that our natiue and ancient kingdome of Scotlande, shoulde be mette at our arriuall there, with anie vnwelcome coldenes of a number of our good subiectes in that contrie, and that by the occasion of a praiudged opinion in manie of our peoples hartes, grounded vpon false rumouris, eyther maliciousslie or foolishlie spred anent the causes and erandes of our intencion to repair thether at this time. Wee haue therefor thoughte it verie conuenient, for preuenting of this mistaking, to make by these presents, an ingenuous and sincere profession vnto you of the motiues inducing vs to resoluue vpon our iorney thether at the time appointed. First, wee are not ashamed to confesse, that wee haue had these manie yeares a greate and naturall longing to see our natiue foyle and place of our birthe and breeding, and this salmond-like instincte of ouris hath restlesslie, both when wee wer awake, and manie times in our sleepe, so stirred vp our thoughtes and bended our desires to make a iorney thether, that wee can neuer rest satisfiied till it shall please God that wee may accomplish it; and this wee do, vpon our honour, proteste to be the maine and

principall motiue of our intendit iorney. But vnto this desyre of ouris, proceeding frome a naturall man, is joyned the care wee haue to discharge our kinglie office the time of our being there, and so to mak vse of our naturall affection, by applying that occasion to the discharge of our calling; wherein, firste, our greatest care shalbe to heare and giue redresse to such iuste complaints, if anie there be, of our subiectes, as could not vtherwise be so well redrest withoute our owne prefence; and our nexte cair shall be to reforme anie such abuse or disorder, if wee shall finde anie, as could not be so well performed in our absence. As for making anie alterations or reformatiōs in the state of that gouernment, eyther ecclesiasticall or ciuile, it is trew wee wilbe glad that by our prefence as manie thingis tending to good as may be, may haue their settling in the time of our being there, but we with not onlie you, who, by your place, ar best acquaynted with our intentionis, but all our good subiectes of whatfoeuer degree, to haue that settled confidence in our honestie and discretiō, that wee will not so much as with anie thing to be done there, which shall not tende to the glorie of God and the well of that commonwealth, and all our good subiectis therein. As also, there may be diuers thinges, which, although wee mighte iustlie with them, yet may ther be so manie impedimentis and lettes to crosse them, that although, in our conscience and honestie, wee might auow them to be good, yet in our discretion we wold be loth to trouble ourselfe and our good subiectes with them at this time, except they mighte aswell proue to the generall liking and applause of our people, as to the benefite and well of the commonwealth. Wee ar therefor hereby earnestlie to desyre you, that yee will, not onlie for your oune partes, harbour no preiudged conceapte of our intention vpon the ground of these idle rumouris, bot also make this our sincer declaration come to the eares of our other good subiectes, [that] wee may haue conforte of such a ioyfull meeting there with our people, as wee for our parte shall euer deferue. To conclude, wee pray you to reste assured that our intention is so to behaue ourselfe, the time of our being there, as euerie one shall see that our care shall not be wanting to do asmuch good as wee can, and yet so to carie ourselfe, as our actions

shalbe accompanied with the applaufe and hearty contente of all our good people.

[Indorfed :]

Lettre dited by his Maiestie felfe to  
the Counfell, before his going to  
Scotland.

CLXIX.—SIR GIDEON MURRAY TO KING JAMES VI.

SEPTEMBER 9, 1617.

MOST SACRED SOUERANE,

As I did oftymes importune your maiestie at your being heir, by dealing with your hienes that no fauor might be granted to Symon Scott of Bonyngtoun, himself, his breither and complices, for the cruell slaughter of one of the fones of Walter Scott of Harden,\* so will I now, in most humble maner, craue pardone to put your heines in remembrance thairof. I know they haue sent vp to folicit the buffines, and ar put in houpe, by the moyane of thair freindis thair, to get a pardone, at leist to procur the gift of thair lifrentis to be disponit to fume freind for thair behoue, whiche is almost equialent to a pardon. Geue they wer apprehendit and brought to thair puneschment, it wer not amisse to dispone thair efcheatis and lyfrentis in fauoris of thair freindis and childering; and counonlie that cours is keiped when malefactoris are punesched for thair faultis; but fuche as committ slaughter, and ar maid rebelles for the fame, thair efcheates and lyfrentis vfes alwyse to be disponed to the partie that hes gottin the herme, and so is maid a part of thair punesch-

\* In October 1616, "Walter Scot, second sone to Harden, was creully murthered by Scot, Laird of Boniton, and hes brother; the murtherers escaped."

ment. This cours haue I alwyfe kepèd in your maieſteis ſeruice, and neuer ſuffered the eſcheat of a malefactor that eſcheaped puniſhment to paſ in his fauoris. I procured your hienes hand to a ſignatour of that lyfrent in fauoris of my ſone-in-law, who is brother to the perſone that wes killed. Geue your maieſtie wilbe pleaſed that I geue it him to be put throw, anie ſuit to be maid in fauoris of the malefactoris may be reſufed with the better reaſone, that your hienes haue maid grant thair of already. Whairanent I humble intreat the ſignificatione of your maieſteis pleaſure, and will end with earneſt and feruent prayeris for your hienes longe preferuatione in all healthe and happienes.

Your ſacred Maieſteis moſt humble and  
faithfull ſeruand,

G. MURRAY.

Edinbrught, 9 of September 1617.

To the Kingis moſt excellent Maieſtie.

CLXX.—THE REVEREND PATRICK GALLOWAY TO KING JAMES VI.

NOVEMBER 5, 1617.

PLEASE YOUR GRACIOUS MAIESTIE,

I receavid your maieſties letter, ſchewing the repoitis made of me to your maieſtie be ſuche perſons, and willing and requyring me, vnder my hand, to certifie your maieſtie of my mind in theſe Articles, which your maieſtie deſyred to be receavid into this Church.

As to the reporteris, certanelie I admire what ſould haue moved thame to repoit to your maieſtie that which was paſſed in priuat betuix ws ;

for, ſpeaking with thame of ſome particulares, I ſchew to thame ſimply my opinione, to know thair judgement thairin ; bot I neuer ſaid to any of thame that ather I was vureſolued, or throughly reſolued, into theſe Articles, bot was to informe myſelf in tyme of euerie poynt of thame, and to do according to my knowlege to informe otheris. And as to my awin mynd in euerie one of theſe Articles, this is it, Ser ; bot with moſt humble proteſtatioune :—

I. That I trewly fett down to your maieſtie what I think of thame, being readie, vpon better informatione frome your maieſtie, to amend what is amiſſe.

II. That this is my awin privat opinione keepit with myſelf, and yit vncommunicat to any man, and ſend to your majeſtie firſt to vndergoe your maieſties censure.

III. That what I wryte, it is frome a ſafeld mynd, readie to help forward your ſervice, ſo far as my knowlege and credite may reache ; and thairfoir wold be the more favourable accepted, and able to procure of your majeſtie, that, as your majeſtie hath done before to me, ſo your majeſtie wold put to your hand to pen, and ſend me your particular informatione and warrand of theſe Articles, which I may embrace and follow ; for thay ar Articles which I neuer thocht neceſſar to tak paines in to know thame, till I hard your maieſtie propone thame as thocht meete be your maieſtie to be embraced be ws.

I. As to the firſt Article, of Confirmatione : I think it is ſufficiently fett down in the laſt General Aſſembly at Aberdeene, and needis no more bot to be put in praſtiſe.

II. As to the nixt Article, of Holy Dayis : of Chriſt our Saviouris natiuite, paſſione, reſurreſtione, aſcenſione, and comming of the Holy Spirite, to be keepid with preaching, prayar, prayſe, &c., I think it the more indifferent, becauſe I reide that Auguſtine comptis it among apoſto-



lik traditions, and observid be all kirkis, Lib. Epist. 118; and sundry Reformid Kirkis vſes it, both in Germany and Swiſſerland, as thair dominicall ſermons in theſe dayis printed teſtifies.

Bot with vs the ſame will ſeeme more hard to be embraced; becauſe hitherto we have benee frie of thame, keeping only the Lordis day, and on it preaching (I am aſſured) ſufficientlie of Chriſt's nativitie, paſſione, reſurrectione, and aſcentione, and comming of the Haly Spirit, almoſt in all our ſermons; and it will be hard to ſett vp a weeke day for thame whilk will not be abuſed be ſuperſtition and ſurfet; and the paſtors will be more buſied in declameing againſt abuſes, nor in preaching of Chriſts goſpel. I ſchew in my priuat talking with Doctor Young, that giue when theſe dayis fell on a weeke day, thay ſould be referrid to the nixt Lordis day (as the Councell of Nice concludit concerning the day of the celebratione of the Lordis Supper), and the miniſtrie ordayned to change thair ordinary textis, and mak that the ſubiect of thair doctrine that day, it wold appeare that your maiesties deſyre wer reaſonably ſatiſfied.

III. As to the thrid Article, of Baptiſme, to be miniſtred at all tymes to theſe that craiſes it: I think it ſould be graunted; and betuix ſunne and ſunne, in day time, to be denyed to nane quho is a knowin honeſt perſone of that flocke. Bot to graunt baptiſme in priuat houſes, and vnder ſilence of night, to ſuch as craiſe it (if this be the Articles meaning), wer to confirme the opinione of abſolute neceſſitie of baptiſme, which is dangerous, and to doe as our Church wer vnder perfecutione; when as we inioy paece vnder your gracious maiestie to doe the workis of the miniſtrie in publict, in day light, and at all occaſiouns.

IIII. As to the ſerd Article, of the celebratione of the Lords Supper in priuat houſes, to perſons craueing it: I think it may be graunted, bot not abſolutly (for then euerie wyfe moſt haue it before ſhe come to church from her chyld bed, and euerie headach muſt haue the communion before it come to the calſay, and that graunted to one, moſt be commoun to otheris, or the paſtor ſalbe exclamed on as a reſpecter of perſons, in end, the ſacrament ſall become of ſo ſmall accompt in

publiēt, as few fall be had to celebrat the remembrance of the Lordis dead, in the publiēt assemblies of the Church, whairupon arose, of old, the celebratioune of priuat messis), bot according to that instance which I hard your maiestie give of your old fervand, Johne Bog, that is, if ane knawin honest man, vpright in the religioun, haue keepid houe or bed for a yeere or tuo, and is vnable throug age and feeknes to refort to the church, then he earnestlie craiging it for the confirmatione of his fayth, in the assurance of the remissiou of his synns and lyfe euerlasting, I think it might be graunted to him, some reasonablenumber of his honest neighbouris accompanying him thairat, with his minister.

V. As to the fyft Article, of receaving the Lordis Supper kneeling: Trewlie, Ser, I wolde faine be informed of your maiestie, how I might doe it myself? how I might informe otheris to doe so? and how, be reafone, I might meete and mend otheris who ar of contrary mynd? And as for my awin opinione heerin, I think as yit that the best forme of taking it is, as we do, fitting; becaus, first, Christ our Lord did so: he had a table, Luk. 22. 21; and, vers 14, sat down with the tuelf to celebrat the supper; and Christis actioun shuld be our institutioun. And the Apostles rule is, 1 Cor. 11. 1, “Be the followaris of me as I am of Christ;” and, vers 23, “I haue receavid of the Lord that which I haue delyverid vnto yow;” so following simply the practife of the Lord in the celebratioun of the sacrament.

Nixt, prayar and prayfe going immediatly before the actioun, and following immediatly after the actioun, with kneeling: it appearis most simply that the actioun itself shuld be according to the custome vsed in such actiouns, and that is, to eate and drink fitting, and as communicantis with our Lord, to rejoyse with him at his table.

Thridly, The Churches Apostolik, and such as followid after thame, till the yere 1215, neuer vsed, as I can reid, kneeling at the receaving of the communion, till Pope Innocentius 3, at Lateran, decreed transsubstan-

tiatione of the elementis in the Sacrament; and after him Pope Honorius 3, the yeere 1220, decreed that the elementis shold be lifted vp be the preeft, adored be the people, and keepid in a box, and on the box shold be this inscriptioun:—

“Hic Deum adora: item flecte genu: paxis hic venerabilis hospite Christo.”

And Doctor Sutline, a learnid and grave divine, contra Bellarminum de Ceremoniis Missæ, sayis, fol. 99, 100, 101, “Omnes hæ ceremoniæ ex recentiorum Missalium formulis authoritatem et originem habent.” Then he enumberis amongis the rest, “Et coram eis genuflexiones.

“Item nusquam certe legimus genua flectenda esse coram Sacramento, nisi in missalibus et libris ritualibus.

“Item nihil turpius quam genua coram Sacramento flectere.

“Item nusquam legimus inclinationem corporis et genuum incurvationem coram Sacramento indicium esse; humilitatis aut aliquos viros sanctos aut pios se coram Sacramento panis aut calicis dominici vel corpora sua inclinasse.”

And Bellarmine, a man as seemis mightie for transsubstantiatione, wreittis, lib. 4. cap. 30, “De Eucharistia melius discunt rudiores in Eucharistiæ Sacramento vere esse Christum præsentem; et proinde falsam esse hæreticorum doctrinam ex publica adoratione totius ecclesiæ, et honore illo eximio qui huic Sacramento exhibetur, quam ex multis concionibus.” And thairfoir in another place he sayis, “Non potest carere suspitione idolatriæ capere eucharistiam genuflexione, nisi concedatur transsubstantiatio.”

Thus, I haue simply obeyed your majesties command, in setting down my opinioun of these Articles, which I beseech your majestie to accept in good pairt, and to amend whair any thing is amisse, be your loveing informatione; remembering how, according to knowlege and abilitie, I have followid your maiestie before, and is now als readie to follow as euer I was (whatsoever repointis be made of me); and fall, Godwilling, according to my knowlege, follow the same course to the end; and

thairfoir needis bot informatione and confirmatione, that I may proceed, quhich nowe I attend.

Pardone me now, Ser, to renew my requeaft for your maiesties præcept to your thefaurer to pas my fonnis gift, which so lovingly your maiesties self hath paffed ; and to befeeche your maiestie, in any reportis that fall be made of me, to keepe ane care free for my ansure, whilk will incourage me to goe on in the service of so loving a maifter. So, humblie taking my leefe, I recommend your maiesties sacred perfone, familie and estate, to the blessing and proteçtioun of God. Frome Edinburgh, this 5 off Nouember, the day of your maiesties most gracious delyuerance from the gunnpoulder treafone of conspyred Papists, 1617.

Your Maiesties awine old and trustie feruitour,

M<sup>r</sup> P. GALLOWAY.

[Indorfed :]

To his Maiestie.

M<sup>r</sup> Patrik Galloway his judgment  
anent the 5 Articles of Perth.

5 Novemb. 1617.

CLXXI.—OLIVER ST JOHN TO KING JAMES VI.

NOVEMBER 25, 1617.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENT MAIESTIE,

This noble man, the Lord Cromwell,\* beinge desirous to kisse your maiesties princelie handes, desires to go accompanied with my letters,

\* Thomas fourth Lord Cromwell, and great-grandson of the celebrated Thomas Cromwell, Earl of Essex, beheaded by Henry VIII. in the year 1540. This nobleman was in 1625 created Viscount Leale, and in

which I could not denye vnto him, findinge his caryadge here to be very noble, and himselfe apte and likely to live to be a worthie seruant to your maiestie. He hath humbly befoight, that I would make knowne vnto your maiestie his conformitie to your maiesties princely directiounes, in a controverfie concerning Mr Alexander Julius and Adam Abercromney, wherein, although it was manifest that the state the late Lord Cromwell, his father, had in those landes, was such as he could not passe them away without doinge wronge to his sonne, and that by the lawe he was not compellable to confirme the graunt that his father had made to Mr Julius and Abercromney; yet, in obedience of your maiesties princelie pleasure, he hath assured vnto them a free-farme in those landes, to his hinderance of thirtie or fortie poundis a yeare of his inheritance. Thus much, at his humble desire, I haue presumed to relate to your sacred maiestie, that his promptnes to obeye your maiestie may appeare; leavinge him and his other occasions to your most royall pleasure. Humbly beseechinge the Almighty to blesse your sacred maiestie with longe life, and a prosperous reigne over vs,

Your Maiesties humble and obedient subiecte  
and seruant,

OL. ST. JOHN.\*

Dublin, the xxv<sup>th</sup> of Nouember  
1617.

To the Kinges most Sacred Maiestie.

1611 Earl of Ardglass in Ireland, where his property was situated, his father having sold all his English estates. He died in 1653. The Irish Earldom and Viscounty became extinct by the death of Vere Essex, seventh Baron Cromwell, and fourth Earl of Ardglass, without issue male, upon the 26th November 1687. The English Barony has remained dormant.

\* Succeeded his father as fourth Lord St John in 1618, and was created, December 28, 1624, Earl of Bellingbrooke.

## CLXXII.—ANNE COUNTESS OF ARGYLL• TO JOHN MURRAY.

[1617?]

SER,

You shal vnderstand ther is on James Ratrey, who now is in your farvies, that onc was in myne, tel his falsedod pot him awaye. I will now speke it, altho euer sine, I have byn content to consele it, in hope of amendment. Ther is on Dromand, who now is his wife, that had in trvst and keepinge of myne, fundrye thinges to the valve of five hndreth povnd or ther aboutis. After shee knew of my determynacion in goinge to Scotland, shee and hee togeather, secretly by nyght, convayed the fayd goods ovt of my hovse, and had not byn scarce a fortnyght ther bot shee mayd herselfe an occasion, by her evel tonge, to com hear agayn. Within fev wickes after, my lord sent a gentelman with money to paye sum deptis he was owinge in London. Shee and her hyfband would not let the gentelman paye the money, bot would have it in their ovne hand, and went to every credetor and prsuaded them it was but desprat deapt, and would haue had them taken, sum halfe, sum a quarter of ther money, to my lordes great dishonor. If you dout of this, Sir, I shal send the men themselues to testyfie it. The same gentelman I desired to reseve her charge, but shee refved it, and answred she would keepe it tel my owne cominge, which shee thoughte would never haue byn: But when shee sa mee come, and that shee could get no oather excvse, shee fayd shee with hild them for deapt I was owinge her. I desired to know for what: but shee mayd a byl to mee which she movght have byn shure non would have harkend to aboue the age of twlve in that fashion. What I myght have dun of my owne good will, mor then her defart, after the

\* There is no date either to this or the succeeding letter. The writer, Anne, daughter of Sir William Cornwallis of Brome, was the second wife of Archibald Earl of Argyle, who entered the service of Philip III. of Spain, and became a Roman Catholic in 1618, much to the vexation of his relatives. His Lady was a Papist herself, and made him a convert. He did not return to England till 1638, in which year he died at London, aged about 62.

delivrie of my thinges, flee myght haue put to my owne cortefye, if theyr meninge had not byn to have kepte them ffile; but that cannot be as longe as ther is a kinge and laves in the cuntrey. I will trvble you, Ser, no furthre with my tedyrs leater, whos end is to tel you the trvth, fearinge you shovld have byn abyfed by false informacion, which I desire non theuld bee that I with al honor and hapynes to, as on that shall ever remayn

Your louinge frind to dispose of,

A. ARGYLE.

To my verae good frind, Mr<sup>e</sup> Morey,  
of his Magistyes Bed Chamber.

CLXXIII.—THE COUNTESS OF ARGYLE TO JOHN MURRAY.

[1617?]

SER,

I make no queſtion, knowinge the trvth, that you would eather mayntayne him or anye oather in ſo vild a accion; but knowinge of ould the ſkope of falſnes and difemulacion of his tonge hath mayd mee this fare to trubuel you. You desired, Ser, by your leter, to vnderſtand further of his behavyore in the tyme he was with my lord. It wear vnſemye to wright every thinge in partikiler what hee dyd; but this fare I will ſaye, that what a man could do in theft, he left not vndone. Hee had for a while the keepinge of my lordes purſe, but his falſwod in that extended ſo fare, that it was ſoon perſeved halfe a year after his goinge awaye, my lord was ſaine to paye thinges hee had taken in troſt, which my lord befor had payd redye money to him for. When theſe greter

trickes fayld him, hee would not sticke to pilfer anye thinge hee could conveniently. Onc I toke him with the maner, and mayd him laye it downe agayne. I haue hard diueres report of his steling money out of the pocketes, and that they haue taken him with the maner, but I will speke nothinge of fartentye but that which I haue sene and knowes my selfe vpon my chargies; yet, altho on would thinke it were to much for on to beare paciently, yet the shewe of his fayned repentanc was so great, that I protest, Ser, I neuer dyd so much as reuele it to anye, tel now this last vileny of his hath mayd mee thinke I haue confeled it to longe. For anye thinge, Ser, that hath latly hapned, this berar, who hath byne witnes to most part of there procidinges, can tel, if you plese to give him leue, the trvth: he beares a honest nam. I hope he shal not lye in anye-thing. So, I will no longer, Ser, be trubelfom to you to explainn the great ronge I haue refeued, which I am shur is vmatchabel in that kinde, and leue al to your nobvel and wife confederation, and shal now and euer remayne

Your most assured frind to despoise of,

A. ARGYLL.

To my assured frinde, Mr Murey, of  
his Magistys Bed Chamber.

CLXXIV.—SIR JAMES LUNDIE TO KING JAMES VI.

APRIL 8, 1618.

MOST GRACIOUS SOUERANE,

It may pleas your most excellent maiestie, vmquihile King  
Williame, of worthie memorie, for the lufe wiche he caryit towardis his



fone naturall, my predicesour, callit Sir Robert,\* thairefter callit Sir Robert of Lundy be King Alexander the Second, gaue all and hailt the barony of Lundy, of whome the Lairdis of Lundy hes linialie defeendit, as oure charteris and evidentis dois record; and evir since the dayis of King Williame, be the space of foure hundreth, fyftie and fyve yeiris, we haue bene in pecciable possellioun of our awin teindis, quhill now laitlie, that the Laird of Largo hes procurit the kirk of Largo, erectit in ane laick patronage, quha intendis most rigorousslie to leid oure teindis: albeit that I haue causit deal with him thir fevin yeiris bigane for ane new tak of oure awin teindis, quhairunto he will nawayis condiscend be ony persuasioun or reasounable offer; bot hes intendit actioun aganis ws for spoliatioun thairof, whairintill be the rigour of law he is liklie to preuale. The hail Senatouris of your maiesties Colledge of Justice thinkis it agreble with reason and conscience that we fuld still continew in possellioun of our awin teindis, feing we ar fa lang kyndlie takifmen and possellouris thairof; and I am fullie resolvit that thair is no mean to hold me in possellioun of the saidis teindis, bot that it wald pleas your most excellent maiestie to direct ane lettre to the Lordis of your hienes Colledge of Justice, to caus ws both submitt that mater to thame, anent quhat takis the Laird of Largo fall giue of our awin teindis, and quhat fall be gevin thairfoir. This I am most willing to do. It is weill knowin to your maiestie quhat querrellis and deidlie feidis hes followit vpon rigorous teinding within your hienes kingdome of Scotland, whiche hes bene the ruine of mony houfes thairof. Most humlie, thairfoir, beseking your gracious maiestie to prevent ws be your hienes letter to the Lordis of your maiesties Colledge of Justice, thus in all humilitie expecteing your

\* Sir George Mackenzie, in his MS. Genealogical Collections, observes, in reference to the Laird of Lundie, "His predecessor was Robert de Lunden, naturall son to King William, so surnamed because begotten within the city of London, in England, as some say, or from their lands in Fyfe, which he got from the King, as others [say]. I haue sein him frequently designed by that King, amongst the witnesses in his chartours, 'Roberto de London, filio nostro,' and in ane chartour by King William to the Erle of Stratherne, amongst the witnesses, Joanne de Londonij. I haue sein also ane charter quherin King William gives Roberto de London, filio nostro, the Foresterie of Tith, near Dunfermling, which thereafter the said Robert giues to the abbacy, and designs himself filius Regis Scotie."

maiesties most gracious will and intercessioun in this point, I most humilie tak myleve, kissing, with all reverence and humilitie, your most gracious hand.

Your Maiesties most humle and obedient  
subiect and fervitour,

S<sup>a</sup> JAMES LUNDIE.

Edinburgh, the 8 of Aprile 1618.

To his most excellent Maiestie.

CLXXV.—HIS MAJESTY'S ANSWER TO THE COUNCIL.

[1618?]

WHEREAS by your lettre vnto vs, yee make mention of the regrete that the magistrates of Edinburgh made anent this ordinance, and proclamation craued to be made that it should not be lawfull to laden anie of the commodities of marchandise of that our kingdome in foreyne bottomis, so long as anie of our owne contrie shippes remayne vnfreighted: to this wee answer, that wee are assured that yee remember nocht what was done and concluded in that busines, in our presence the last day that wee sat at our counsell table in Scotlande, which was this, that as for the generall, it wes directlie agreed in these verie termes that yee sette doune in your lettre, without one contrarie vote, and wee our selfe did propounde the question; but becaus, it is true, that manie particulier questions might resulte vpon this grounde, which wolde require furder time to be digested and debated, those thinges were lefte to a furder time, and a full hearing of both marchandes and mariners. Wee, therefor, for our parte, can see no reason to change our former resolution in generall; and as for the discontentment of the magistrates, wee haue learned to distinguish betwixt

the particulare well of the marchantes, and the well of the wholle kingdome; nether are wee anie thing feard by that resolution alledged to be taken in France, for wee see no reason whie the wine should be transported to Scotland in French bottomes, since wee do assuredlie know the French wine to be a commoditie of that nature, as France must be faine to vtter once a yeare in anie bottomes, being a commoditie that they must yearlie vente, or else be extreme loofers. And vpon the other parte, naturall reason teacheth vs that Scotlande being a parte of an Ile, cannot be maynteyned nor preferued withoute shipping, and shipping cannot be maynteyned without employment, and the verie law of nature teacheth enerie sorte of corporation, kingdome, or contrie, first, to fette themselves and their owne vessels on worke befor they employe anie stranger. For our parte, therefor, yee may giue our counsell there full assurance that no argument can or shalbe made against the generall conclusion which our selfe tooke there, that shalbe hable to alter our resolution in this generall grounde, no more then to make vs beleieue that day is nighte, and fire is colde. But as for the particulare conditions and restrictions, which at our being there wee lefte to be debated at full leafour, is, that that course shall still be kepte; and in caise, vpon the hearing of the marchantis and mariners, anie such question shall arise vpon the particulare, as may distracte our counsell in diuers opinions, then and in that case our counsell shall do well to fende vs these controuerted heades, together with their opinions or doubtles therevpon. As for your other point of your lettre, wee neede giue no other ansuer, then that wee approue verie well the order which the counsell hath taken in the same.

[Indorfed:]

His Majesties Answere, dited by him selfe,  
concerning transporting goodes in  
strange bottomes.

## CLXXVI.—THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE TO JOHN MURRAY.

FEBRUARY 19, 1619.

RYGHT HONORABILL COUSIN,

I haue hithertill continued to mak anfuir to 3iours of the 26th Januar, that I micht see fuim progres in 3iour befines, all this oulke has bein beftowed in 3iour aëtions, in feffion with the vaffals and fewars in Anandell; all is done to 3iour aduocatts contentment. With Dundranane all donne: alfo, almoft as 3iour aëtions ar rafonabill, fua I can nocht fay to 3iou, bot 3ie haue als greate fauour off all our breether in feffion\* as onye honeft man can with. I knaw particulars heiranent will be mair particularlie writtin to 3iou be 3iour doars.

3iour aëtioun with Bonitoun fall be, God willing, donne this next oulke, for I called the other aëtions firft in order, as I was defired be 3iour agent, James Hamiltoun.† All the occurrents I can write to 3ou [are], our Bifchoppe of Galloway is departed this lyff.‡ Mr Robert Bruce, minifter, according to his facred majesties royall direëtion, is confined to his awin houfs, and ane mile about.

Nocht ellis at this prefent, bot my deutie remembered to 3iour good

\* Murray could not fail to be in high favour with the judges. He had succeeded the Earl of Dunbar in the management of Scottish affairs, and was all-powerful; so much so, that the proudest of the Scottish nobility sought his patronage.

† The notion of a Lord Chancellor advising and superintending the management of the law proceedings of a friend is somewhat inconsistent with modern ideas of judicial character. There is too much reason to believe, from the evidence that has come down to us, that the administration of justice in Scotland then, and for nearly a century afterwards, was very corrupt. At a later period, Lord Balcarres positively asserts that the leading men of his time got persons thrust in as judges, for the express purpose of influencing the decisions in those cases in which their patrons were personally interested. It is remarkable, that, at the date of Lord Dunfermline's epistle, the English judges were not so subservient as their northern brethren seem to have been: and there is a letter preserved in the Abbotsford Miscellany, in which Sir Henry Montagu, afterwards Earl of Manchester, solicits two of the judges to favour a man who had been one of the King's falconers, but who was in prison on a charge of felony. These upright men disregarded the application, and the culprit having been convicted, they shewed him no favour, but ordered his instant execution, which, to Sir Henry's great annoyance (as he had interfered to gratify the King), actually took place. See p. 212.

‡ William Coupar, a learned and excellent man. He died 15th February 1619.

half mairaw,\* wiflis ȝiow baith all ȝiours all happines and contentement.

Ȝiour louing Coufing at command,

DUNFERMLYNE.

Edinburgh, 19 Feb<sup>r</sup>. 1619.

To my weilbeloued Coufen, Mr Murray  
of Lochmaben, off his facred Maieftie  
Bedchalmer.

CLXXVII.—NOTE OF THE COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS.

AUGUST 25, 1619.

Halyruideous, xxv. August 1619.

THE mater anent the navigatioun and fraughting of ftrangearis shippis wes this day at grite lenthe agitat befor the counfell, and the hail obiectiounis, anfueris, replyis, and duplyis, maid thairanent in write wer all red, and the pairtyis hard thairupoun; and after lang conteftatioun on ather fyde, the mater wes drawne to tua pointis, to witt, the difcuffing of the difficulteis and impedimentis proponned anent the easterline trade, quhilk is the cheif point now contrauertit, and the fetting doun of the frauchtis and conditionis of goode and deutfull feruice on the pairt of the marinaris to and fra France, Spayne, and Flanders; and for this purpois, the marcheantis and marinaris hes nominat aucht on ather fyde to conueene and meet at Edinburgh, vpoun the xiii day of September now approtecheing, with my Lord Prefident and fome otheris of the counfaill appointit for that buſſynes, quho ar to deale thairin, and to ſie yff

\* Marrow, *i.e.* his wife.

with mutuall consent the pointis contrauertit may be brought to ony goode conclusioun, and thay ar to reporte thair procedingis to the counfaill, vpoun the xv day of the said moneth of September, at quhilk tyme this mater wilbe putt to a point without forder delay.\*

Thair wes ane other point contrauertit, anent the portage, quhilk is difeussit by difchairgeing of all vnfreemen to haif portage.

The particular recommendit be his maiestie to the counfaill, anent the refyneing of fugair, is thought, in the generall, to be very reafounable; and yift for remoueing of all questioun and obiectionis that may be propounded aganis the expedience of the fame, the counfaill hes appointit some of thair number to confer thairupoun, and to reporte thair opinion thairanent.

The particular anent the refett of Egyptianis, whilk wes lykwayes recommendit be his maiestie, hes ressaüt this answer, to witt, that yf the persone recommendit be his maiestie will call the reflettaris of thir Egyptianis befor his maiesteis thesaurair, and deputie thesaurair, and fuche otheris of the counsell as falbe adjoynd vnto thame, and will furneis probatioun aganis thame, that thay fall haif the ane halff of the efcheatis and penalteis of the perfonis that falbe convict of the said refett.

The patent grantit be his maiestie to Gilbert Dik for the Booke of Commoun Prayer is exped.

The pouder boughte in Danekin for his maiestie being taken to the vse of the King of Denmark; and the counsell hauing written to him, desiring that it mighte be restored to the marchant who had boughte it for his maiesties vse, no order was taken in the mater; and, therefor, it is humblie desired that his maiestie may be pleased to require his brother, the King of Denmark, to take iuste freindlie order in the busines, and to permitte the marchantes of this contrie to transpore thair pouder and other lawfull wares, withoute any trouble or impediment in his boundes.

\* No note of the proceedings in September occurs among Sir James Balfour's MSS., but see Melros Papers, vol. ii. p. 347.

## CLXXVIII.—THE EARL OF TULLIBARDINE TO KING JAMES VI.

[1620?]

MAY IT PLAES YOUR SACREIDE MAIESTIE,

I kno that begging is ane ordinar phrafe for all men that ar futers for thee kings liberalitie, and of this fort I haue beine on, this long tyme, altho I haue as yit come no speid, bot nou, Sir, I am a begger of ane vther kynd, if nobilitie vill permit pouerty to expresse itself in thee hiest degree, or if your maiestie can think me poore, that hes nather maete, fyre, clothes, monny, nor credit. I am perswadit your maiestie will think this ane strainge chainge from that of my prediceffours, who war rather hellfull and lenners to vthers, then borrouers from any : some pairt of thair thankfullnes your maiestie hes seine, alltho not as thay wischt. Whoofoeuer, God hes nou layde his correcteing hand on me, yit can I plaede nothing bot vnwirthines, and becaus kings ar called gods, it may be your majestie wald take euill (thee word of deferuing), I will forbaer to vse that too, only, Sir, geiue me leiuie to begge your charatie, in such misffour as it fall plaefe your majestie best to extend thee fame, according to my presnt misery, vntill your maiestie may be plaefd to vse your liberalitie according to your gratius promise. Thus, remitting all to your maiesteis gratius confideration, I kisse your majesties hands.

Your Majesteis most humble and obedient  
subiect and fervant,

WILL: TULLIBARDINE.\*

[No date.†]

To his most sacreid Maiestie.

\* William, second Earl of Tullibardine. See letter from him to John Murray, p. 280. He died in the year 1626. He married Lady Dorothea Stewart, eldest daughter of John, fifth Earl of Atholl, by whom he had one son, John, whose right to the title of Atholl was confirmed by Charles I. 17th February 1629.

† Probably written in the year 1620.

## CLXXIX.—THE EARL OF TULLIBARDINE TO KING JAMES VI.

[1620?]

PLEIS YOUR SACREIDE MAIESTIE,

I haue so long expectid your maiesteis gratius fauour, for releiffe of my distresfid esteat, that nou I am vterly ondone, for I haue fould all my fathers patrimony, I haue ingadgd all the esteat off Atholl, and I haue bond my freinds heir and in Scotland for great founes off monny, that I dar not go home, and hardy byde heir without your maiesteis present hellpe. I befeifehe your maieftie not to be displeide that I propone on off theis vuertours; the making off ane Inglisthe barroune or tua thousand pounds sterling out off your Efcheker heir, vith sex thousand punds sterling off the taxatione of Scotland; or ells that your maieftie vill geiue me leue to sell my st yle of Tullibardine to ane Inglisthe man.

Sir, it is not presumtione that moues me, bot extreme necessitie; and I houpe your maieftie will take it so, vtheruayis I vill be forst to sell all, and so no moir to be your subiect, althoo all misereis and banishment fall neuer make me leue to be

Your Maiesteis most humble and  
obedient seruant,

TULLIBARDINE.

To his sacreide Maieftie.\*

\* There is no date to this letter. It was probably written not long after the preceding one. It presents a singular picture of the extreme poverty of this Scottish nobleman, who seems willing to sell his title even to an Englishman, in order that he may obtain the means of subsistence.



## CLXXX.—KING JAMES VI. TO THE PRIVY COUNCIL.

[No Date.]

RIGHTE TRUSTIE AND RIGHTE WELLBILOUED CUSENS AND  
COUNSELLOURS, AND RIGHTE TRUSTIE AND WELLBE-  
LOVED COUNSELLORS,

We greete you well. Whereas by reafons of thofe troubles in France, a verie great number of people profeffing oure religione haue lofte their fortunes in that realme, and for thair fafetie fledde with their wiues, childrene, and families into this, hauing no other meanes of mayntinance, fauinge charitie of well difpofed people, wee haue bene pleafed, oute of our royall commiferation of their diftreffed eftate, to permitte a voluntarie contribution to be leuied in this our kingdom, frome fuch as oute of their chriſtian charitie ſhalbe difpofed to contribute to their releefe; and although wee are not ignorant of the ſmall ſtore of monie preſentlie to be founde in that our kingdome, yet in ſo pitifull a caſe, wee haue bene pleafed to yealde to the humble ſuite of the deputies of the French Church here, who haue moſte humblie befoughte vs that the volunterie helpe of well diſpoſ'd people there may likewiſe be craued and collected, it is therefor our pleaſor that yee giue direction to the Arch-biſchoppes to write to the Biſchoppes of their prouinces, to recommende the matter to the miniſters of their dioceſes, and they to recommende it to the charitable deuotion of their particular flockes, and ſuch moire as ſhalbe leuied for that effect, to be by the miniſter of each parroch broughte to his ordinance, and by him to the Archbiſhop.

CLXXXI.—ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE EARL AND  
COUNTESS OF HUME AND JOHN STEWART.

APRIL 12, 1620.

ARTICLES of Agriement fet downe by his maiestie, and agreit to by James Erle of Hume, and the Countes of Hume, his mothir, for hir entres, on the ane pairt; and Johne Stewart, fone to Frances, sumtyme Erle Bothwell, on the vther pairt, for a finall determinatioun of all difference and contraverfie betuene thame, concernyng the Abbacie of Coldingham, to be extendit, and past in the best forme of securitie that can be devyfed for that effect, by his maiesties Chancellor, President, and Advocat, with advyse of both the pairties lawers.

First, That the said erle and his mother, for hir entres, dispone, renunce, and transfer in the favoures of the said Johne, his airis, assignyis, and successouris, all richt, entres, and possellioun, quhilk they haue or may claime, to ane pairt of the landis and teindis of the said abbacie, pendicle and pertinent thair of, to which Johne Stewart was provyedit, and had richt befor his said fatheris forfaltour; with warrandice from ther awin proper factis and deidis allenerlie, done or to be done since the deceis of Alexander, last Erle off Home. That is to say, that they haue nethir maid nor fall mak ane other richt or translatioun of the title and possellioun foirsaid, bot to the said Johne Stewart onlie; and with this explanatioun, that that dispositioun falbe nowyse interpreted nor accepted anie deid done by them, quhairby they or anie of them may be

called or perfewed at the instance of the said Johne or his foirfaidis, or anie other pairtie quhatfumever, for warrandice of anie anterior takis or richtis, set, maid, or granted be the said Erle of Hume ; bot that the said Johne Stewart, his airis and successouris, fall warrand and relieve the present erle and countes, thair airis and successouris, of all warrandice quhilk may follow, be occasione of these presentis, at the instance of quhatfumevir persones haueing or pretending richt from the said late Erle off Home : Provyiding alweyis, that the grant heirowff fall nowyse prejudice the said Johne in his awin anteriour richtis, nor bind him in anie fort to warrand, ratifie, or approve the said deidis done be the said late Erle of Home ; bot that it falbe lawfull to him to reduce and annull the same be vertew of his forsaide anteriour richtes be law.

That therfoir the said Johne fall give perfite securitie to the said Erle of Home, for payment to him of the fowme off fourtie eight thousand pundis Scottis, in maner and at the termes after following : viz. off ane fourt pairt thairowff, being tuell thousand pundis money foirfaid, at Mertimes nixtocum in this instant geir of God 1620 ; of vther tuell thousand pundis at Whitfonday ; and of ane thrid 12 thousand pundis at Mertimes thairefter 1621 ; and of the last tuell thousand pundis, in full and compleit payment of the foirfaid fowme of 48000 pundis, at the terme of Witsonday 1622, with vsuall penalties for ilk termes failzie : And to the effect that the said late Erle of Home's debtis dew be bandis, and as jit vnreleivet, being satisfiet and peyit furth off the first end of the said fowme, and ane competent proportionn of the profite thairowff zeirlie allowit to the said countes, for recompense of the lose quhilk scho fall sustene by this transactioun in quyteing onie thing scho had richt to for her lyftyme, the supplus thairowff may be maid furtheuming to the said Erle of Home, and his airis of his awin bodie, and failzeing therof, to the said erles susteris, thair airis and assigneys : And that the samyn may be dewlie imployit for his and thair best profite, it is his maiesties plisfour, that the said lordis caus sufficient securitie be maid be the said countes, ather be finding of cautionn, or, if that cannot be becaus scho is a stranger, be binding of hir conjunctee for performance of the samyn.

That the said Johne lykweyis bind and obleis his haill landis, teindis, and vtheris apertaining to him of the said abbacie, for payment to the said erle, and his aires male of his bodie, 5eirlie of the fowme off thrie thowfand sex hundreth pundis Scottis, at tua termes in the 5eir, Witfunday and Mertimes, be equall portiounes, the first termes payment to be reuled be his entrie, and fet downe be the said lordis, according to the custum and practife in the countrey in the lyke caiffis. Provyiding alweyis, that if it fall happen the said erle to die without airis male gotting of his awin bodie, that the said annuitie of thrie thowfand fax hundreth pundis Scottis fall returne to the said Johne, and remane with him and his foirfaidis heritable.

That the said Johne fet and grant takis of the teindis of Ald Cambes and Fastcastell to the said erle, and the airis male of his bodie, he and they defacing and allowing to the said Johne and his foirfaidis 5eirly, of the said annuitie of thrie thowfand fax hundreth pundis Scottis, so much as by dew estimatioun falbe fund equivalent to the 5eirlie value of the saidis teindis; with this provisoun, that failling airis male of the said erles awin bodie, the saidis takis fall furthwith expyre and be null of them felfis, and the richt of the saidis teindis returne to the said Johne and his foirfaidis, to be intromettit with and disponit vpon at ther plifour: And if the saidis pairties at ther appeirance befor the saidis lordis do not agrie vpon the 5eirlie worth of the saidis teindis, that ilk of thame in that case chose and nominat tuo freindis to try and vpon oath to informe the saidis lordis of the trew value of the same; and that accordingle they ordane a proportionable defalcation to be expresse conditioned and mentioned in the saidis takis, quhilk gif the said erle refuse to condiscend to, that then it falbe lawfull to the said Johne and his foirfaidis to intromet with the saidis teindis, and dispone therupon at their plifour, they paying in that cace 5eirlie the foirfaid haill fowme of thrie thowfand fax hundreth pundis Scottis money.

That Johne Stewart discharge the said erle, his said mother, and ther foirfaidis, of all byrun dewties and profiteis of the said abbacie since the late Erle Homes possessioun therof; provyiding alweyis, that (if the afoir-

namet lordis fall find it requisite and necessar for the said Johne his bettir securitie) the said erle be in that cace bund at his majoritie to ratifie and approve the dispositiounes and securities to be now maid in favouris of the said Johne and his foirfaidis, and that, if the said erle refuse to do the same, it salbe lawfull to the said Johne and his foirfaidis, nocht-withstanding the said discharge, to call and persew, be ordour of law, for the saidis byrunis : And lykweyis, that, in cace of his said refuiseifall, the takis ordaned, as said is, to be set to him, fall fall, and be null in themselves, and the said Johne freed, from thencefurth, of all forther payment of the said annuitie of thrie thousand six hundreth pundis money foirfaid, and the said erle and his foirfaidis be bund and obleist in repayment of the foirfaid fowme of fourtie aucht thowfand pundis Scottis to the said Johne and his foirfaidis.

That, for the better securing and establisfing of the said Johne and his foirfaidis in the heritable richt and possessioun of the said abbacie, and pertinentis of the same, quherunto he wes provyidit befor his said late fatheris fall, the saidis lordis, with advyse of his laweris, caus forme and fend to his maiestie such new richtis and securities, or confirmationes and ratificationes of his auld richtis, containing in them ane erectioun of the abbacie to him and his foirfaidis (bot without title and dignitie of a lord), as, in ther judgement, they fall think moift effectuall to secure him and them of the same.

Lastlie, It is his maiesties plifour, that, for the spidier performance of the premissis, baith the saidis pairties fall repair to his maiesties kingdome of Scotland betuene the date heiroff and the day off nixtocum, that so they may the moir convenientlie meit with the foirnamet lordis, to the effect foirfaid ; and in taikin of ther willing consent to the fulfilling of the haill premissis, to these presentis, signed by his maiestie, both the saidis pairties haue set ther handis : At Whytehall and St Mertenis Lane, the twelff and auchteint dayis of Apryle 1620, befor Archibald Prymrois and Dumeane Prymrois, and Mr Patrik Hammiltoun, witnes to Johne Stewartes subscripcioun, and Mr Edward Wrae, off his ma-

iefties bedchalmer, and James Dowglas, witnes to the Countes of Homes.  
Sic fubfcribitur,

A. HOME.

J. STEUART.

Edward Wray, witnes to  
the Countes of Homes fub-  
fcriptioun. James Dowglas,  
witnes to hir fubfcriptioun.\*

Archibald Prymrois, witnes  
to Johne Stewartes fubfcrip-  
tioun. Duncane Prymrois,  
witnes to his fubfcriptione.

CLXXXII.—SIR GIDEON MURRAY TO KING JAMES VI.

JUNE 30, 1620.

MOST SACRED SOUERANE,

It is litle past a yeare fence forrane moneyes, by proclamacione,  
wer difcharged to haue cours within this realme; bott that prohibicion  
hes bred fuche vniuerfal scarcitie of moneyes throuhout the whole king-  
dome, as your maiesteis fubiectes of all fortis ar liklie thairby to recauie  
irreparable herme, geue fume speidy and tymous remedy be not provydit.  
Amongest a number of wther inconvenientis, your maiesteis cofferis heir  
ar maid fo emptie, that I find great difficultie to gett whairwith to fur-  
neische moneyes for your maiesteis buildingis, and the wther necessarie  
and ordinarie burdingis, altho no part thairof wer to be employed for pay-  
mentis dew befor Witfunday last; and geue the inconvenient fall con-  
tinow and increas, your fubiectis heir, of all rankis, wilbe rendered unable  
to performe thair dew seruice for your maiesteis honour, when it fall pleas  
God we haue the happienes to fie yowr maiestie within this kingdom.  
It wilbe peraduentur obiected aganes the humble petitione presented

\* "It is lykeweyis signed by his Maiestie."

in name of the noblemen, burowes, and remanent subiectis of this kingdome, whairanent your maiestie hes a lettre frome the Lordis of Cownfell, that thair desyr wilbe preiudiciall to your maiesteis benefeitt, arryving frome the mynt, whairanent it will pleas your maiestie be informed, that, albeit for the space of ane half yeare after the proclamatiōe, monyes came by exchange to the mynt hous moir abundantlie nor they did for a long tyme befor, yet the frie proffeit thair of, and of all that cam in for the space of twa yeares (the bulzeonn payable by the merchantis excepted) did litle exceeid the foume of sex or sevin thowfand merkis Scottis, as the compt laitlie maid by the maister of the coingiehouse doethe testifie. Nor will the geving cours to sume spaces of forraine moneyes heir do preiudice to your maiesteis subiectis of England, whair these spaces, beand tranfported frome hence, will onlie serue for bulzeonn, altho they pas in paymentis amongest yowr maiesteis subiectis heir. The difficultie I find to do yowr maiesteis seruice, by reafoun of the present scarstie, with the earnest desyr I haue that your maiesteis subiectis heir may be eased of suche inconvenient, haue moved me to present to your maiesteis princelie consideration these informall lynes, for the whiche I humbly craue your maiesteis pardoun, and will end with my humble prayer for your maiesteis long preferuatiō in all healthe and happienes.

Your sacred Maiesteis most humble  
and faithfull seruand,

G. MURRAY.

Edinburgh, the last of June 1620.

To the Kingis most excellent Maiestie.

CLXXXIII.—MR H. BLYTH\* TO THE REVEREND HENRY CHARTERIS.

DECEMBER 26, 1620.

MY DEIR AND MAIST LOVING BROTHER,

I hartlie wishe to 3ow in the Lord Jefus, our common Sauour, the fweit affluence and joyfull increafe of all spirituall happines with 3our deir bedfellow and hopefull children. I haue bene and am in great langour defyring to heir of 3our weillfair, and mervells 3e wryt not to me, feing I forzeitt nocht 3ow as I haue occafioun, for 3e are ftill in my remembrance, wifhing it may pleife our good God I may haue agayne the . . . 3our face, and inioy the fweetnes of our wonted chriftiane familiaritie. I [doubt] nocht, deir brother, bot 3e remember me alfo, bot I wald haue the teftimonies of 3our loving remembrance more frequent be 3our wryting to me, till it pleife our God to bring ws more neir to vther. As to my prefent eftait, I preis my God it is tolerable. I am awayting in patience the iffew it fall pleis my heavenly Lord to fend of my troble, wherin my God hes wyffie difpofed. Albeit I think in vndeferued in regaird of all the instruments wha hes concurred in the fam. I am expecting a relenting of this rigorous dealing, hoping alfo that be 3our interceffion with sic vther my weillwillers thair, the fam may be procured att St Androifs hands, be whais will, as I vnderftand, only I am detained heir. I think it my dewte to omit no lawfull meane I may vfe for my awin releif, and thairfor will renew my earneft requeift to 3ow as my moft fpeciall and loving brother and freind, to remember me as 3e find occafioun, with the help of Mr Thomes, my father, and billie, Mr James King, and sic vthers 3e think meit in fpeiking St Androis for me, that I may haue libertie ayther to cum hame agayne, or at leaft may haue a tyme granted to putt my difordered affairs to a poynt, as I may within thir four or fyue dayes. I being in Channoric mett with the

\* Mr Henry Blyth, minister of the Canongate, on the 2d July 1619, was brought before the Court of High Commission—suspended from his ministry, and banished to Inverness by the King's orders. See an account of his troubles in the printed edition of Calderwood's Church History, pp. 731 and 735.



Bishop of Ros,\* wha professis great kyndnes to me, and willed me to wryt my self to St Androis, quhilk he thinks wald effectuat muche, for he tells me it may be that St Androis† stormes, and thinks I dort that wryts not to him my self. Trewlie I think not ill of the overture, for my not wryting to St Androis aryfes of na contempt, and if that meane may do good I mind not to neglect it. The Bishop of Ros, out of his love to me, quhilk he professis, hes drawn vp a minute according to the quhilk I fuld frame my letter to St Androis. When I wryt it I fall fend 3ow the copie. In the meane tyme, do 3e as the Lord fall present occaifioun, and be not sa flaw in wryting to me anent that, or ony vther purpose 3e pleis, for nothing will cum fra 3ow quhilk will not be most acceptable to me. My jewell is weill, all preifes to God, and hes hir hartlie commendatioun to 3ow, and her sweit kymmer and sifter, Helene, hes bene maist dangeroullie diseased thir 18 weeks, as I dowt not 3e haue hard, bot in the Lords gracious mercy is recovered. All the rest of the barines hes had the fluxe thir many days, bot I hope without preiudice of thair health. The berars hast cutts me short. I pray 3ow remember all our freinds, namely, 3our honest mother-in-law, 3our brothir, and Mr Thomes Sydferf. He wrytes not to me, and I haue small purpos to him bot commendatiouns, quhilk I pray 3ou mak in my name. The grace of the Lord Jefus be with 3ow.

Your loving brothir, in all I may  
in the Lord Jefus,

MR. H. BLYTHE.

Inverness, 26 Decemb : 1620.

To my maist loving and deir Brothir,  
Mr Henrie Charteris, Minister of  
the Evangell, at Edinburt, thes.‡

\* Patrick Lyndesay, advanced to the see of Ross, 27th October 1613, translated to the Archbishoprick of Glasgow, 1633.

† Archbishop Spottiswood.

‡ Communicated by Mr David Laing. The original letter had been pasted upon the boards of a book to strengthen the binding.

## CLXXXIV.—THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE TO JOHN MURRAY.

JANUARY 30, 1621.

RIGHT HONORABILL AND . . . . . COUSING,

I directed ane pacquett to giow 9 instant, quhilk I lang to onderstand that gie refused, because I directed the same at Mr Thomas Henderfon his desire, and with his lettirs to giow. Our Archibischioppe of St Androis is going thair to Court, in this terriblie euill waddir, at the greate entreatie off all the nobilitie was heir at this conuention, to giue his sacred maiestie, in name of all, all possibill satisfactioun. I man requiest giow also, in name of all, and my self also, to assist the said lord bischioppe be all giour best meanis, so he may be weill hard and accepted be his maiestie. I assure giow, if his maiestie fall giue eare to his ouuer-tures, and profecute sic course as he will propone, it will worke all for the bettir to his maiesties intentiouns. I hoipe my lord bischioppe will latt his maiestie knaw I did for my awin pairt all I micht, to haue all at his maiesties wils and will; sua I did in treuth, and, if giow heir off onye other, I pray giow ansuir for me, and latt me knaw it: I fall mak it cleir for giour releiff and my awin. Mr Archibald Hamiltoun, called Doctour Hamiltoun, hes shiawin me he was meikill behaldin to giow quhen he was thair this last fomer. He sh[iawis] also that he had ane promeis of his maiestie, as giow knaw, off ane bischiopricke in Ireland; the bischiopricke off Cassillis has required me to remembir giow of the same, for he onderstandis the present bischioppe\* is werye weake, if he be nocht gone, and wald be thairfore remembred to his maiestie. I wald gie did him onye guid gie could, for I knaw na farder in the besines nor be him. He is minister of Paslay, and I knaw werye weill his father, ane werye honest man, Claude off the Cochno; thairfore I remitt that to giowr awin wisdome, albet I wils eiuer our pepill had all rasonabill and possibill helpe. I haue writtin to

\* Miler Magrath, a Franciscan friar, who, turning Protestant, was promoted to the see of Cashell in 1570. He died, aged 100 years, in 1622. He was succeeded by Malcolm Hamilton, and in 1630 Archibald Hamilton was translated from Killala to this Archbishoprick. He died at Stockholm in 1639, aged 80 years.

giow fuim tymes to remembir giow helpe me to ane new poolke for the greate feale, bot hes had na anfuir fra giow jit off the fame; nather is thair haift in the mater, bot I wifs it nocht forziett. I haue na farder to wryte to giow, other nor my awin and my half-marrowis maift hartlie commendations to giow and giour bedfallow. Sua wiffis giow baith and all giours all happines,

Giour maift affectionat Cofing,  
to ferue giow,

DUNFERMELJNE.

Frome Edinburgh, 30 Jan<sup>r</sup>. 1621.

To the Right Honorabill my  
weilbeloued Coufing, Jhone  
Murray off Lochmaben, in  
his facred Maiefties Bed-  
chalm<sup>r</sup>.

CLXXXV.—THE MAGISTRATES OF EDINBURGH TO JAMES VI.

APRIL 6, 1621.

MAIST GRATIOUS AND DREAD SOUERANE,

As none of our endeuouris doe fatiffie vs till we find thame approved by your facred maiestie, fo your maiesties trustie counfailour the Archibifchop of Sanctandrois, vpone his returne haueing delyuerit to vs, to our inestimable conforte, your maiesties gracious conſtruction of our meanest seruices in the rewlis of your royall affection, and for our furdur encouragement in the work of draperie latelie intendit be vs, your maiesties grant of findrie liberties and priueledgis, we can not bot in all

humilitie and submiſſioun of myndis, rander to your maieſtie all thoſe ſacrifices of maiſt humble ſubmiſſioun and acknowledgement of your royall fauours, quhilk is dew to ſo great, gracious, and wyfe a monarche; and humblie proſtrate our ſelfes, and quhat we haue in this world deareſt to vs, at your ſacred feet to be diſpoſed vpon. To this effect we haue directed the beaſar heiroy, Maſter Johne Hay, our clerk and commiſſioner, to your maieſtie, and, with all, humblie intreate from your ſacred maieſtie thoſe ſupplies whiche we houped to haue reſſaued by your maieſties royall prefens (more then which nothing in earth can be pleaſing to vs), quhairof we fall now be ecclipſed, if it fall not pleas your ſacred maieſtie, vnder your royall hand, to giue warrant to your maieſties eſtates of parliament heir to be conuened, to ratifie thoſe grants whairwith your ſacred maieſtie and your maiſt noble progenitouris bes formerlie beautified this your maieſties guid toun. For the quhilk, as we haue nothing to rander bot which is dew, ſo will we aſſure your maieſtie we fall not value our lyſſes nor our fortunes to mak your maieſtie demonſtratioun of our royall affectionis, quhen we fall haue the happienes of the occaſioun to ſchaw it; nather fall any thing be more in the lyne of our deſyres, then that your maieſties dayis may be extendit to the periode of nature, the limites of your empyre to the boundis of your matcheleſſe wiſdome and worth, that as in all royall furniture, ſo in dominion, your ſacred maieſtie may ſurpaſſe all earthlie monarches. And ſua, maiſt humble craving pardoun for our preſumptioun, remitting quhat furdur is to be ſaid to our commiſſioner, quhom your maieſtie fall be pleaſed to truſt on our behalfe, we fall euer reſt

Your Maieſties maiſt humble and obedient ſubiectis,  
The Proveſt and Baillies of Edinburgh,

D. AIKINHEID, PROVEST.

ROBERT DOUGALL, BAILLIE.

JHONE MAKNACT, BAILLIE.

W<sup>m</sup>. DICK, BAILLIE.

HARY MORESONE, BAILLIE.

Edinburgh, 6 April 1621.

To his moſt excellent Maieſtie.

## CLXXXVI.—THE EARL OF MORTON TO KING JAMES VI.

APRIL 18, 1621.

MOST SACRED SOUERANE,

Wpen the ficht of a licence giuin be your maiestie to Mr Alexander Coluill, for the freindis of the hous of Argyll,\* to deal with that erle to try if we micht recall him from that euill cours wharin he hes plungit him felue, I, as on who, both by bluid and allyance, am oblisit to wifch the standing of that hous, did wret to him to kno if he grundid him felue upon anie refons in that cours wich he had takin; as also, I laborit to fie if yet he was eum to that fence of him felue as to wifch a retrait from his euill wayis: His anfuwer cam ffolie to me, and when I had it, I could gedder no uther thing by it, bot that he ferit I had no uther pouer bot by my kynd wifchis to procur him a faif retrait. Heirupon I heue prefumit humble to beg your maiesties refolution, if without offence I may yet trauell with the Erle of Argyll to bring him to a iust acknoledgement of his grait ouersicht, and that he may mak fuch offers of amendment as may be acceptable to your maiestie: and in my trauels to this effect, albeit I will ftryue to fcho my felue a kynd freind to him and to his hous, yet my gretell cair fall be, that I do no thing which may be unfeimlie for

Your Majesties most faithful subje&t  
and humble feruitor,

MORTON.†

Neuhous, 18 Apryl 1621.

To the King his most facred Majestie.

\* The Earl of Argyll left his own country, took service under the King of Spain, and became a Papist. His conversion, as we have previously remarked, was brought about by his second wife Anne, daughter of Sir William Cornwallis of Brome, a Roman Catholic lady. Craig of Rose-Craig has these lines on him:

Now Earle of Guile, and Lord Forlorn thou goes,  
Quitting thy prince, to serve his Spanish foes,  
No faith in plaids, no trust in Highland trews,  
Camelion like, they change to many hues.

† William seventh Earl of Morton. He was born in 1582, and died in his sixty-sixth year, 7th August

## CLXXXVII.—THE EARL OF MAR TO KING JAMES VI

APRIL 25, 1621.

SIR,

For obediens of your maiesties comandis delyuerit vnto me oy Sir Patrick Morray, I haive bein als caerfull as the shortnefs of tym vold fuffer me to try the best mein for effectuating your gracious plefor anent the makking of Glenammond\* a forest, as this berar your maiesties seruant can most particularlie shau you, quhat I can nott doo att this tym I shall very shortlie, I houp, rander you an account of; the greatest parts of all the forest most be of Sir Patricks aun lands, only this far I vill afuir your maiestie, thair is not in this kingdom fo fitt a place for a forest. In this, or any thing els quhairin I can serue your maiestie, I shall euer be reddie as my deutie binds me. Thus, efter the kissing of your sacred handis, I humblie reft

Your Maiesties most houleble subiect  
and feruitour,

MAR.

Alluay, the xxv of Apryll 1621.

To the Kings most excellent Maiestie.

1648. He suffered great pecuniary losses by his support of the royal cause during the great civil war, and was compelled to part with his noble property of Dalkeith—now a principal estate of the Buccleuch family. His sister, Lady Agnes, was the first wife of the Earl of Argyle.

\* A picturesque valley in Perthshire, watered by the river Almond.

CLXXXVIII.—THE TREW INFORMATIOUN OF THE ACSIDENT FALLIN OUT  
BETUIX DRUMLANGRIG AND CASSCHOGILL, VPON SATTURDAY THE  
TUELFTH DAY OF MAY, 1621 YEIRE.

In the first, It is to be rememberit, that the landis of Airdoche and Cnokcone, pertening to David Douglas, brother to the Laird of Drumlanguig, and the landis of Casschogile, pertening to Sir Robert Douglas, ar baith hauldin of the hous of Drumlanguig, and lyand within the barronie thair-off, merchand togidder, weill knawin, be ane walter passaige diffending from the hicht of the hill, and rining doune betwix thame. Thair being no guid mois vpon that pairt of the landis pertening to Casschogile, thay haue oft and diuerse times haid licence and tolerance of the Lairdis of Drumlanguig, as thair kinefmen and freindis, to cast and wine thair peattis and baill elding vpon the landis of Cnokconie, and diueris tymes as thai omittit thair dewtie to the hous of Drumlanguig, thay haue beine interupit and impedit thairrof. ay and quhill thai creavit libertie out of huiß frome the Lairdis of Drumlanguig to cast thair faidis peattis thair, quhilkes being creavit was ever granted.

It is to be rememberit, that this being the first yeir of the faid David Douglas his entrie to the faidis landis of Erdoche and Cnokconie, fyne the deceis of his vmquhile faither, and expyring of his minoritie, he haueing the occasioun to go to Hawick to vifeit his mother, quhillk is mair nor fourtie four mylnes distant fra the faidis landis, the faid David, efor his goeing, did defyre his brother James Douglas of Moufwall, to haue ane caire that he, his grund, nor tennentis, fould get na wrange befoir his returning home againe frome Hawick; as alfuwa he directit his tennentis, that gif Casschogill or his tennentis com to cast their peattis vpon the faidis landis, that thai fould adverteise his brother the Laird of Moufwall thairrof, quha wald not fuller him nor thame to get wrang.

Vpon Wedinsday the nynt day of Maij, Casschogills fervandis and

tenentis haueing cumed to the mofe of Cnokconie for caſting of thair peitis, the Laird of Mouſwall being adverteſit thairrof, fend to the caſteris and diſchairgit thame in the ſaid Dauid Douglas name, of the caſting thairrof, without his licence, aſſuiring thame gif thai wald not ſtay, that thai wald be impedit and not ſuffered to caſt the ſaidis peitis. Lykeas the ſaid James Douglas of Mouſwall, vpon the morne thairefter, come himſelf and ane vther with him, and interruptit the ſaid wark be cutting of fume of the peitis and caſting of thame in the pot agane.

Vpon Setturday thairefter, being the twelff day of Maij, Caſſchogill himſelf, with his ſone Robert, his haill ſervandis and tennentes, to the number of threttie ſex men or thairby, with ſuordis, hagbottis, lances, corne-forkis, and great kentis, by women and fallowis, com to the ſaid mofe per force be way of bangeſtrie, to caſt thair peitis. The Laird of Mouſwall being adverteſit thairrof, paſt and tuik with him the Laird of Ballaggine, ane freind of thairis, quhome he directit to deall with Caſſchogill and his ſone to ſlay the ſaid wark, and not to doe it in contempt, bot to ſeik it out of luiſſ; quhilk being ſua creavit thai ſould get thair deſyre; quhilk thai diſdainefullie refuſit, and vtterit contemptuous ſpeitches, declairing that thai ſould caſt thair peitis thair, quha wald, quha wald nocht. The ſaid James Douglas of Mouſwall enterit in ſpeitches with the ſaid Robert Douglas, requeiſting him to move his father to leive of that contemptuous forme of docing, for eſchewing of ane gretter ſkaithe, aſſureing him that he wald cum better ſpeid efter ane luiſſing mainer. The ſaid Robert than anſuerit him with the lyk diſdainefull ſpeitches as of befoire. The Laird of Mouſwall, than anſuering and aſſuiring the ſaid Robert, gif his faithir and he war of that mynde, thai ſould not be ſufferit to proceed in that wark.

This cuming to the Laird Drumlangrigis knowledge, he, for preventing of evill, directit the Laird of Dalzell, the Laird of Lage youngar, the Laird of Balagane, and Capitane Johnſtounne, to deall with Caſſchogill and his ſone, to ſlay that contemptuous warke, and to giſſ thame ane aſſurance that giſſ thai wald ſeik libertie to caſt peitis out of luiſſ, thai ſould be ſatiſſeit: And efter he had directit thame away, he callit to remembrance the ſtuburnes of the people of both fydis, and quhat authoritie



he had vnder the kingis maiestie to command thame, he heafit himself efter the saidis comissioneris to quhome he schew his farder will, that gif Casschogill could be moveit to ony reffone, he wald abfulotlie, as superiour to thame both, command his brother, and as the kingis maiesties officer and shirreff, dischaige the wark for ane schort tyme, that sume better ordour war takin thairwith. According to the quhilk, the saidis comissioneris proceedit, Drumlangrige being present, he as thireff, in maner foirfaid, in his maiesties name dischaigit the said warke, and all being done in maner as said is, was dissobeyit; the Laird of Moufwall heiring the contemptuous answer, utterit in thir speitches, as folloves: “Ȝe ar over peart to dissobey the kingis maiesties chaige, quicklie pack you and goe away.” Immediatlie thairefter, ane of Casschogillis servandis with ane great kent, flak Capitane Johnstoune behind his bak, tua great flaikis vpon the heid, quhilkis maid him fall deid to the grund with great loife of his bluide. And than the said Robert Douglas presentit ane bendit hagbote within thrie elnes to the Lairdis of Drumlangrigis his breiff, quhilk at the pleasour of God misgave. And immediatlie thairefter, the said Robert of new morlit the said hagbut, and presentit hir agane to him. quhilk schot and mist him, at the plesour of God; and Robert Dalzell, naturall sone to the Laird of Dalzell, was struken throuche the body with ane lance, quha cryit that he was flaine; and sume tua or thrie men was struken throuche thair clothis with lances, sua that the haill company thought that thai haid beine killit, and than thought it was tyme for thame to begine to defend thame selfis; quhairvpon the said Robert Douglas, and vther thrie or foure of his folk being hurte, was put to flicht, and in the sleing the said Robert fell, quhair the Laird of Drumlangrig chanefit to be narrest him, quha, notwithstanding of the formar oller, the said Robert maid to him with the hagbute, not onlie spairit to straik him with his awin handis, bot lykewayis dischaigit all the rest vnder the paine of thair lyffis to steir him; vtherwayis the said Robert had beine slain, as the said Robert and findrie vtheris of his company declaird. All this was done vpon ane great fuddinetie efter the falling of Capitane Johnstoune, the presenting of the hagbute to Drumlangrig, and Robert Dalzellis crying that he was flaine. Quhat hurt of bodie and leis

of bluid, Drumlangrigis few company hes, it war langefum to wryitt; for Caffehogill war thryfe als many of company as he.\*

## CLXXXIX.—JAMES VI. TO THE MARQUIS OF HAMILTON.

AUGUST 2, 1621.

RIGHTE TRUSTIE, &c.

Wee haue vnderflood by the letters of diuers perfons, your good and happie endeauoris in our seruice at this parliament, and how far your paines and trauelles haue aduanced our affaires. How yee haue behaued your selfe, or what formes yee haue vsed wee know not, but your prouident and wise cariage hath bene highlie commended to vs by all fortes of people, both ecclesiasticall and laik, whereby as yee haue giuen vs exceeding contentment, so wee can not choofe but giue you moste heartie thanks, not doubting but the finall euent wilbe correspondent to so good a beginning. And now, the Lord Ochilttrie returning into that our kingdome, who exhibited vnto vs certeyn Articles concerning Sir Gedion Murray, it is requesite that the said Articles be tried, that if that man who is now deade haue bene honest, his fame may be cleared even in the graue wher he lyeth; as, on the contrarie, if he haue bene dishonest, it is no lesse important to our crowne that he be discouered. And if the enformer proue false, it is likewise materiall; for besides the perpetuall aspersion which will ly vpon him, it will cause vs be the more warie in crediting him hereafter. And because it is requesite that for triall of these Articles, commission be granted to certeyn perfons for that effecte, the Lord Ochilttrie presented vnto vs one which wee refused to signe, but haue thoughte good to require yow to cause one be framed by the aduice of our counsell there, and speciallie of our aduocate, in legall forme ac-

\* Both Drumlangrig and Douglas were criminally indicted. See Pitcairn's *Criminal Trials*, vol. iii. part ii. p. 500, but were never brought to trial—having accommodated matters amongst themselves, and having doubtlessly dealt with his Majesty in the usual way.

customed, or as shalbe requesite in this case; and that yee cause inferte therin with your selle, our Chancellour, the Archbyschoppe of St Andrews, the Earles of Mar, Lithgow, and Winton, the Bythoppe of Rossie, Sir George Hay, Sir Androw Car, and Sir James Skene. Wee likewise require yow, before your comming frome thence, to sette the said triall on foote, and see such of the said Articleles tried and examined as may by witnesss be mosse easilie procured; and in speciall, the first Article concerning the setting of our customes, which (in respecte that those who were farmers thair of, are all or mosse of them yet aliue) may be easilie tryed, to the entent that, at your returne hether, yee may giue vs a tastung of the mater, that, by those few pointes, wee may coniecture what wilbe the euent of the wholle; and becaus, for clearing of diuers pointes, it wilbe requesite that the Lord Ochilttrie haue inspection of such writtes, rolles, and registers as may serue for his better prooffe, it is good reason that yee cause the same be made patent to him as often as he shall require, and that yee giue him all lawfull incouragement which may animate him to persiste in a good course. And assuring yow that the finding oute of the treuth of this mater wilbe vnto vs mosse acceptable seruice, wee, &c. Apothorth,\* 2 Aug: 1621.

[Indorfed:]

Coppie of his Maiesties lettre  
to the Marques of Hamilton, 2d  
of August 1621.

CXC.—THE EARL OF MAR TO JOHN MURRAY OF LOCHMABEN.

JUNE 12, 1622.

GOOD GOSSIP,

Theis ar to aquentt you that this morning betuix fax and feuin, my Lord Cancelar departed this lyf at his aun houfs of Pinkie.

\* Althorp?

I knau or this tym, 3e haue received letters from Sir Jaems Ballyie. I vill ernaestlie intrett 3ou to be carefull in this mater concerning the keiping of the abbay and park of Holyroudhoue, thaer is many refons that moues to itt. I am duelling prefentlie in it, and am fo tyed be my place. All thir particulars I remitt to Sir Jaems Balyeis letter with this berar, and I doubt not bot 3e vill haue a cair of itt, as ever I can doo 3ou pleafar. This from

3our louing Cufing,

J. MAR.

Holyroudhoue, the xij. of June 1622.

To my louing Cufing, Jhoone  
Murray of Lochmabane.\*

CXCL.—INSTRUCTIONS BY JAMES VI. RELATIVE TO THE ACTION BROUGHT BY THE EARL OF MAR† FOR RECOVERY OF THE BARONY OF KILDRIMMIE.

1. For my aduocate not to conceale, as he will anfwre to me upon his allegiance, if I can refflaue anie hurte ather in honoure or proffeit, if the Erle of Marre fhowlde tryumphe in this action.

\* Shortly afterwards Viscount of Annand and Lord Murray of Lochmaben, and lastly Earl of Annandale. —Wood, in his edition of Douglas, mentions that "the date of his creation does not appear," but that he had a charter, wherein he is called John Viscount of Annand, of the Palace in Dumfries, &c., 20th February 1623-4. His elevation to the Peerage is earlier than this, as amongst the Balfour MSS. there is a letter signed "John Murray," dated the 27th June 1622, and addressed to the Earl of Melros, and then follows a letter by the Lord Johnstoun, dated 6th August 1622, to Murray as "my Lord Viscount of Annan."

† John Earl of Mar brought an action of reduction-improbation, &c., against the Lord Elphinstone for setting aside his right to the barony of Kildrinnie (or Kildrummie), the principal estate of the ancient Earls of Mar. In this law-suit he was successful, and Lord Elphinstone, although he and his ancestors had been in possession for more than a century, was (as the act 1617 had only recently passed) compelled to restore the lands.

Kildrinnie had been seized by Alexander Stewart, a natural son of the Wolf of Badenoch. Alarmed at what he had done, he, on the 19th September 1404, presented himself at the castle gate of Kildrinnie, and

2. That he transſerre his place for this actiō, upon a qualified perſon of the Lorde Elphinstons election.

3. That the ſeſſion be commandit to take goode heede if any thing interuene in this proceſſe, that may indeede ather towche me in conſcience, honoure or profite, and that how ſoone any ſuche ſtring ſhall be touched upon, I may be acquainted thair with, before thay make anie proceeding in that point.

4. That the Erle of Marre ſhall publickely declare, that he claimes nothing by Dame Marguerite Douglaſſe tytyle\* to any pairt of the erldome

surrendered to Iſobel, Counteſſ of Mar in her own right, and widow of Sir Malcolm Drummond, not only the caſtle, but the furniture and title-deeds. He then delivered the keys: whereupon the Counteſſ, taking them in her hands, choſe the ſaid Alexander for her huſband, gave him the caſtle, together with the Earldom of Mar, to be held by her ſaid huſband and herſelf, and the heirs to be procreated betwixt them: which failing, to the Counteſſ and her lawful heirs. Accordingly, in preſence of the Biſhop of Roſs and her tenants, ſhe granted a charter to this effect on the 9th December 1404, which was ratified under the Great Seal the 21ſt January following.

Iſobel Counteſſ of Mar died without iſſue in 1419, whereupon the earldom and eſtate devolved on the heir of line, Janet Keith, grand-daughter of Ellen, ſiſter of Donald, twelfth Earl of Mar. But James the Firſt, who, in his deſire to curb the nobility, made no ſcruple to ſet juſtice at defiance, reſuſed to recognise her right or that of her huſband, Sir Thomas Erſkine, and although Alexander Stewart had merely a liferent, his Maſteſty obtained from him a reſignation of the honours; whereupon a charter of the earldom was granted, 28th May 1426, to Alexander for his life, and to Thomas his natural ſon, and the lawful heirs-male of his body; which failing, to return to the crown. Earl Alexander died without iſſue in Auguſt 1435, and, as his ſon Thomas predeceſſed him, the earldom, under this charter, reverted to the crown. The reſignation was, however, clearly null, as the ſubſtitution to the heirs of the Counteſſ Iſobel, in the charter 1405, upon her death effectually tranſferred the earldom to Janet Keith.

Robert Lord Erſkine, ſon of the marriage between Janet Keith the heir of line, and Sir Thomas Erſkine, upon the death of Alexander, ſerved himſelf heir (22d April 1438) to Counteſſ Iſobel, and a precept was iſſued for infeſting him, upon which ſeiſin followed, 21ſt November 1438. He aſſumed the title of Earl of Mar, and ſubſequently beſieged and took poſſeſſion of the caſtle of Kildrinnie, but was compelled to redeliver it to the King. His ſervice was thereafter reduced, and although his right to the earldom was perfectly clear, neither he nor his deſcendants were able to obtain it for more than a century. Upon the 3th May 1555, John Lord Erſkine was ſerved heir of Robert Erſkine Earl of Mar, and upon the 23d June 1565, Queen Mary granted a charter of the earldom in his favour, which was ratified by Parliament, 19th April 1567. He accordingly became Earl of Mar; various ſuits, for recovering the family eſtates, were inſtituted by him and his ſon John, the next earl, which were for the moſt part ſucceſſful.

\* Margaret, daughter to the third Donald, Earle of Mar, as ſhe deſigns herſelf in ſeveral charters, ſucceeded her brother. She married William, the firſt Earle of Douglas, by whom ſhe had James, Earle of Douglas, killed at Otterburn, who had no lawful iſſue, only two baſtard ſons, the eldeſt, William, Laird of Drumlanrig, predecessor to James, Duke of Queensberry, who got of the family ſeverall lands, and, in

of Douglass, and shall, if need be, make renunciation of any fuche clayme in fuche manner as the parties hauing intresse shall deuife; et sic fiat iustitia.

CXCII.—THE COUNTESS OF MAR TO JOHN MURRAY.

JUNE 16, 1622.

MOST WORTHY SERVANT,

I am fory att my hart, faving Gods pleafur, to haue this occasion to advertis you of the death of my Lord Chancellor, who deceassed this morning betuixt fax and feaven. I pray God derect his magesty to take the best cowers for the estaytt of this poore kingdome, for itt will be fownd thatt ther will be greatt misling of him thatt is gone. I know my lord hath wretten to you as one whome he doth repose in. My Lord is defyrows to haue his magestys favor to haue the keiping of the Abbay and the Park, the rather thatt in regard of his continuall attendance heir in his magesty service, and thatt none will so willingly undergo sic occasions as do concerne the honor of the country, in enterainment of strangers when itt fall fall owt, or any vther occasions of his magestys service. So I befeik yow to giue your best assistance in thes, and thatt yow will do me the favor as to let me know whatt cowers his magesty is to take, both in his service for appoynting of another chancellor, as lykways in this other

token of his grateful sense of their kindness, quartered the armes of the family of Mar with that of Douglas: the other bastard was Archibald, predecessor to Douglas of Cavers. She bore also to the said William, Earle of Douglas, one daughter called Isobell, afterwards Countess of Mar. The said Margaret, Countess of Mar, was married after to Sir John Swinton, whether after the death of William, Earle of Douglas, or by reason of a divorce from him, is not certain; by whom no issue. She designed herself Countess of Mar and Douglas. Godscroft, in his History of the Douglasses, as also a printed genealogie since come out, makes the said James, Earle of Douglas, to have been son to Margaret Dunbar, daughter to the Earle of March, which is a mistake, as appears by a disposition of Keith of Invergies, as also by a charter granted by the said Margaret, Countess of Mar, of a mortificatione to the chappell of the Virgin Mary in Garviach, which is to be seen in the chartulary of Aberdeen in the Advocates' Library." *Erskyne's Genealogie of the Mar Family*, MS.

particular of the Park and the Abbay: So, wifching yourfelf and your bedfellow all happines, I reft

Your affeured freind to ferve yow,

A. ERSKYNE.

Halyrudhus, 16 of June 1622.

Yetterday his mageftys letter was rede in the ceffion, and according to his mageftys defyr in itt, my lord did publickly renunce all claime to the Erdome of Dowglas, and thereafter fett his hand to itt, as the lordes defyred.

To my verie loving freind, Mr Jhon Murray,  
of his Majestys Bedchamber.

CXCIII.—THE EARL OF MAR TO JOHN MURRAY.

JUNE 20, 1622.

Good Gossup,

Althoh I haiue vryttin this other letter, quhilk, according to your aun difereſion (give ye think itt good), ye may ſhau unto his ma-jestie, ȝitt haue I vryttin this letter particularlie for your ſelf, to latt you knau ſumquhat of the proceedings betwixt my Lord Elphinston and me in this action we haue in hand. On Setterday laſt our action vas called, and his majesties letter to the lords red in that grett mater that thay maed all the varld to ſtarrt at, concerning the erldom of Douglas and his lands. I haue ginuen the lords ſatiffaction, and hes ondir my hand be-for the lords renunced itt, quhilk is incert in the Bouks of the Seſſion, and thair is no honeſt man that is nott ſatified with it, bott I houpe to giue him ſatiffaction for yourſelf. I ſee my onfreinds hes not ſpared

(giff thay could) to haue stired vp 3e euin my best freinds against me, bott thay ar disceved. I haue spokin both with my Lord Precedentt and Mr Thomas Houp, and 3e shalbe satisfied in any thing 3e or thay shall think good; fo no mor of this att this tym.

Vpon the xviii of this instantt it vas called again: thair thay named aine aduocatt, and the man vas my Lord of Durie, Mr Alexander Gibfoun, a thing thocht so strange be all men heir, as the lyk vas neuer hard; for itt is aine ordinarie thing to my Lord Aduocatt to mak substitution of anie in his place, to any aduocatt the partie vill choofe; and in any caufs quhaer he may nott compeir himself, bot to naim a lord of the cessioun itt vas neuer hard befor, bot this is nott all; thay haue moued his majestie to vrytt a particular letter to him to accept it; vpon this my partie giuueith furth, that his majestie doth fauor thair caufs better than myn; and altho I knau itt is aine ontreuth, 3itt itt grieues me nott a lytill that many peipill heir talks of itt. I vill pray 3ou and all my freinds thair, to moue his majestie to be indifferentt, and latt the comun courfs of justice go on, and latt thaem mak thaer choifs of any aduocatt thay can, and lat the lords be our judges, and nott to suffer thair triks to haue place. The treu refon that thay vuld haue my Lord of Durie aduocatt is, that he may be fett and nott haue a vott in thatt cawfs, becaufs he is aine ondirstanding honest man, and thay knau any man of ondirstandings vill neuer be on thaer fyd. This pakkett of letters I haue directed in my Lord of Kelteis abfens, to be delyuered onto 3ou, feiring he should be abfentt from courtt for his aun particular effaers; thairfor, giue fo he brek vp my letters to him, and giue he be thaer, I desyr euerie on of 3ou to see others letters, for I vrytt euerie thing to any of 3ou as itt did cum in my mynd. I am loth to fache the prince vith continuall vrying to him, bott I vill pray both 3ou and my Lord of Kellie to remember my service vnto him; and vithall, in all humilitie, to desyr him to hauld hand that no nouasion may be brocht in in my caufs, for than the varld vill think that my Lord Elphinstoun hes mor fauor of my masler then I haiue, quhilk vill do me mor herm than all the land is vorth. I haue vryttin tuo lynis (of creditt to my Lord of Kellie or 3our self) to my Lord Deuk; and



thairfor I pray 3ou inform him particularlie as I haue vryttin unto 3ou. This is all I can fay for the prefent ; and fo I vill reft

3our louing Cufing,

J. MAR.

As for 3our aun particular, itt is doin.

3e fhall receiue inclofed in this letter 3our letter of the 11 bak again according to 3our defyr ; and I vill pray 3ou to fend me bak thir tuay letters in this pakkett vith this berar, for I haue only fentt him vp for expedition, becaufe the ordinar pakkett runs fo flaulie ; and I pray 3ou heft him bak to me, for my partie feiks nothing bott delay. My Lord of Sanctandros vnderftanding of this pakkett, defyred me to fend this inclofed vnto 3ou, quhilk 3e fhall receiue.

3our louing Goffup,

J. MAR.

Holyroudhoufs, the xx of Junie 1622.

CXCIV.—THE EARL OF MAR TO KING JAMES VI.

OCTOBER 10, 1622.

MOST GRATIOUS SOUERAINE,

Becauf of the warrants directit by 3our maieftie for paments to my Lord Chancellor, the Marques of Hamiltoun, and Thomas Hudfon, of ther moneyis out of the firft and fecond termes pament of

the taxatioune, ther wilbe no moneyis at this nixt Mertimes terme wherewith to buy in ane of these pensionis whiche your maiestie hath appointed to be bought, for laik wherof your maiesties debts will incres, and the possibilitie of pament therof wilbe the harder; for remedy heirof, I do heir present wnto your maiestie my awin simple opinion, leiving to your maiestie your confideratioun to embrace or reiect the samyn.

If your maiestie wilbe pleased that ane hundreth thousand merkis falbe borrowed vpon interest, I hoip so to manage the same, as I shall buy in of 5earlie rent to your maiestie, frome these pensioneris, twentie thousand pounds—the rent to be paid for this borrowed money in ane 5ear and ane half, will extend only to ten thousand punds, and the rent to come into your majesties coffers in that space, will extend to threttie thousand punds, so as your maiestie shall ressaue three pennyis for one whiche 5ow shall giue out. I dar nocht promise, in regaird of your majesties former warraunts, that this ane hundreth thousand merkis can be paid in schorter tyme nor ane 5ear and ane half after Mertymes, from whiche tyme furth, your maiestie wilbe freed of pament of the annualrent therof. If your maiestie allow of this my opinion, and will let me haue your warraunt for pament of this ane hundreth thousand merkis, with the annuell therof, out of the reddiest of your majesties rents and of the taxatioun (the Marques of Hamilton being first paid), I shall engadge myselff and my frends our credits for borrowing therof. I haue ordanit William Barclay to attend your majestie, and to receave your directioun heirin, whome it will pleas your majestie to trust: And so, befeiking Almightye God to blisse your majestie with many happy dayes, I rest

Your Majesties most humble subiect and servitor,

J. MAR.

Halyruidhous, the tenth of  
October 1622.

To the King his most Excellent  
Majestie.

## CXCv.—LADY BEATRIX RUTHVEN TO KING JAMES VI.

OCTOBER 10, 1622.

MY MOST HUMBLE SERVICE BEING IN ALL REURANCE REPRESENTT,

Gif it may ples your most excelant maiestie not be offendit withe me, most excelant, most worthi, and most gracijs seuit Keing, that I most humbly ons againe befeik your gracijs grait maiestie to haue pitie on my most distresst estlett of me your maiestis most treu and faithfulle seru-  
 uant, quha newlyis vnder the daenger, in this next session, to lose and be put fra that littille rounge calit Coulland, quhairin I haue remaenit and liuett fence my motheris distrese to this prefeantt tym; and thairfoir I most humbly befeik your maiestie, for Godis caus, and for the lang and faith-  
 fulle seruice I maed your maiestie, that your maiestie will be sue gracijs to me, as prefantlye, befor the session sit dune, to send ane varand of your maiestis to the counsalle, comandng tham varrie staetlye, that I be nae vayes trubilit or hurt by laue in the pessabille bruing of Coulland for my lyfytyme; vithe ane particiler letter of your maiestis to the sehanfler, and to the Erile of Mourus, that thay tua may nou be my protekturisse, wnder God, in all my allëris, as the last sehanfler vas, quha now restis with God: Your maiestie dereking tham this vaye, thay ville asseuritlye do sue. I most humbly befeik your most gracijs maiestie, gif this varantt, together with your maiestis particuler letter to the sehanfler and president, aether to gif thes to the Donk of Lenox, or to the Erile of Huldernese, to send me, that I may go with tham myself, and present tham to thes lordis in your maiestis most princelye nainelye naeme.\* Most humbly ex-  
 peking this fauuaris of your most excelent maiestie, as I fall ener pray the Eternalle God, of his grait mercie, to grant your maiestie many lang and happie dayes, with the most joyfulle ring of all erthly kingis, to Godis

• Sic.

glorie, your maieftis heiche honour, and to the grait contentment of vs  
all, your maieftis moft loueing feruantis ; euer refting

Your Maieftis moft humble, faithfull, and  
obediant feruant to deithe,

BEATRIX RUTHUEN.\*

Edinbroche, the x of Oôtober.

[Indorfed :]

Ladie Coldenknoweis, 10 Oôtober 1622.

CXCVI.—THE EARL OF MAR TO KING JAMES VI.

NOVEMBER 24, 1622.

MOST GRACIOUSE SOUEREING,

I receiued your maiefties letter of the 21 of Oôtober, shau-  
ing that ze haue maed choifs of Sir Archibald Naper to be trefurer de-  
put of this kingdom, vith the motiues mouing your maieftie to tak this  
courfs ; fen your maieftie hath fo refolued, I shall in all humilitie obey  
your direôtions ; as for the gentillman, he is knaun to be both iuditious  
and honeft, and as your maieftie wrytts in your aun letter, frie of par-  
tialitie or any factious humer ; and I, vith all my hartt, doo vifhe that all  
your maiefties fubieôtes var als free of ther tuo fallts, as I houp tym shall  
mak knaun to your maieftie that beth he and I ar ; in quhilk respects your  
maieftie heth made a good chois. For myfelf, my caer and paens shalbe

\* The writer was a daughter of William first Earl of Gowrie, and sister of John the last Earl. She married Sir John Home of Coldingknowes.

nothing the lefs in forthering of your maiesties feruice in all things incident to that place\* viche your maiestie beth honored me with: And fo, befeiking Allmichtie God to blifs your maiestie with many happie days, I rett

Your Maiesties most humble subiect and feruitor,

J. MAR.

Holyroudhoufe, the 24th of  
November 1622.

To the Kings most Excellent Maiestie.

CXCVII.—THE EARL OF BUCCLEUCH TO THE VISCOUNT OF ANNAND.  
[1623 ?]

MY LORD,

I recevett your letter from Andoveer, and dois attend hys majestie resolutione about the particular the counfell rytte in, viche I in thatt shall obey in all humilitie, vhatt it shall pleis hys majestie to command. I dout nott bott my Lord off Nithisdaille vill acquent you vhatt hes bein done att thys last courte, so I vill nott enter in ony particular. For me in thatt fervice, alleure hys majestie thatt my lyffe shall rather faille then vnvillingnes to doo hym all fervice, viche I am bond too, and most faithfullie as hys trew subgett. My Lord, I vnderstand that my

\* The office of Lord High Treasurer of Scotland.

onele, Frances Stewart,\* is partett from heir towards your courtt : vhatt hys defyrs vill be to his majestie I kno nott, yett I vood defyre that faueur from you, as to remember hys majestie faueur towards thos thatt hes bein faithfull fervants to hym, and that to thaire pouar is daylie doing his majestie service, thatt if so be his disleins be as befoire to the prejudice off me and others thatt hes done hys majestie service, in thatt particular he may be plesett to felow the continuance off hys royall dispositione in our faueur, as befoire it hes plesett his majestie to do. I ritt thys nott off any misdout I haue off hys maiestie faueur to me, far aboue my meritte I confesse, bott lest hys majestie shold be surprisett, and he perswade hym of vhatt is nott. I am confident your Lordship vill do this faueur to your serviteur, and vithe all speike hys majestie in thys particular about Frances Steuartt; as also befrind vhatt concerns hym, thatt on all occasions vill ever proff your lordships serviteur,

BUCCLEUCHE.

[No Date.]

I vill humblie intratt that faueur off your lordship as to lett me heir from you in thys bufines, and to caus delyver thyr other too letters, for viche I shall be ever obligett.

To my verrey honorable good  
 Lord, my Lord Vicount off  
 Annande.

\* Francis, the forfeited Earl of Bothwell, married Lady Margaret Douglas, eldest daughter of David seventh Earl of Angus, and relict of Sir Walter Scott of Buccleuch. Francis Stewart was, therefore, brother uterine of Sir Walter Scott, first Baron of Buccleuch, and uncle of Walter (the writer of this letter), who succeeded his father as Lord Scott of Buccleuch in 1611; and who, by patent, dated 16th March 1619, was created Earl of Buccleuch.

## CXCVIII.—THOMAS NICOLSON TO THE VISCOUNT OF ANNAND.

JANUARY 27, 1623.

RICH HONORABILL,

My very guid lord, efter dewtifull remembrance of my feruice, I receavit your honouris letter from my guid lord the Earle of Roxburgh, quhairby and be his lordships informatioun of the pains your honour hes takin in my particular, anent my gift of the postmaisterfchip of Colbrandspeth,\* I think my self so tyit to ferue your honour, that I am aschamit of my inhabilitie, quhilk closis vp the inward affectioun I haue to ferue your honour. Bot seing thair is no obligatioun of impossibiliteis, I doubt not bot your honour will accept of my guid mynd, and vse me as your honouris fervand in any thing quhairin my service may be steadable. And becaus, notwithstanding of the difficultie of my erand, your honour wills me in the letter to abyd quhill his maiestie may be movit, I haue takin the bauldnes at this present to putt your honour in remembrance heirof. I haif sent the gift with this gentilman, Archibald Campbell, who will attend your honour heirin. I think my Lord Marques of Hamilton will assit your honour heirin, becaus the Erle of Roxburgh and the Clerk of Register hes writtin to his lordfchip in my favouris. The only scrupule that withhaldis the kingis maiesty is becaus he will not mak offices hereditary; bot in my particular, thair is no sic daunger as in offices of authoritie and iurisdiction. For, first, it is ane service and a thraldome quhilk I wald never vndergoe, if it wer not to eschew ane gritter oppressioun, if the office wer disponsit to men of clan, quho wald, vnder colour thairrof, oppressie me and my tennentis; nixt, it is only within my awin land, and sua can do no man harme; and last, thair is no schyir quhairin his maiestie hes not heritabill mairis or fervandis, quhilk ar allowit as maist necessar for his maiesteis service. The lyk is in my case;

\* See Melros Papers, vol. ii. p. 494.

for if I had the office heritabill, I wald caus mak provisioun boath for sufficient horsles and intertenement of gentilmen passingeris, quhilk is aluterly neglectit, and can not weill be redressit, in respect of the waiknes of the postmaisteris; quhair, be the contrair, I wald be compellit be my infestment to mak sufficient provisioun for hors and man. These argumentis, I think, wilbe sufficient to move his maieslie; bot the grittest argument I rely vpon is your honouris favour towardis me vnderferved; for the quhilk I will remane

Ever your honouris bund man,

TH. NICOLSON.

Edinburgh, 27 Januarij 1623.

To the richt honourabill my verry  
guid Lord, the Lord Vicount of  
Annand.

CXCIX.—THE VISCOUNT OF STORMONT TO THE VISCOUNT OF ANNAND.

FEBRUARY [1623?]

MY WERAY HONORABILL GUD LORD AND LUVING SUNE,

Thir presents ar onle to let you knaw quhow gled I ame to heir off your preferment,\* quhilk I thocht to hef kuavne by your avine letter, for so ye assurit me at our last miting that ye vald do nothing in your avine afers bot ye vald acquent me with the same with the first of your frindis; bot since, sen ye hef dune so vill, and I think all your freindis heir vill be gled, and none mor nor myfelff, for the quhilk we that ar your freindis heir hes grayt caus to thank God for the same, and your lordschip felff mor nor enay; vtherfor, God hes the hert of all creatur in his handis, quha disposis all thingis at his plesur in the avine tyme. Now,

\* The elevation of John Murray to the peerage, as Viscount of Annand.



my gud lord, fen 3e hef gotine 3our preferment by God and 3our grafivs meller, let it be 3our gritell ker to be thankfull, and that God will continow his bliflings with 3ow, and vill continow 3our mellers louf in gifin mor and mor. And I pray 3ow let not 3our preferment draw 3ou ava fre 3our vuntit atendens vpone 3our meller that hes bene fua grafivs to 3ow: let 3our thankfulnes be knavine to the varild, and fper nather penis nor trevell in 3our atendens, mor now nor 3e hef dune befor. Sune, I lef this to that God that hes direkit 3ow in all 3our afers to direk 3ow now fefer frome him, and he vill gif 3ow mor nor 3e kane vis or cref. Now, fume, I moft end, and I recommend 3ow and all 3our afers to the protectione of Almychte God. 3it, fume, I moft be trubillsum, and intret 3our vuntit fauour to be kerfull of 3our fervand, my auld mane, quhume I vis recomendit to my grafivs meller, quha promift to me that he vald prefer him to fume fervis. My hert fume, remember quhow ftedabill 3e hef beine by the ples that 3e hed in 3our mellers fervis, not onle to me, bot to menay vtheris. Remember quhat it is to hef ane trow frind in ane ples of credit; and now fince 3our credit is avanfit, and I ame fertene 3e hef credit boithe with 3our grafivs meller, and with them that hes moft credit abut him, extend 3our credit, and ples Mungo\* in fum ples of credit abut his maieftie or the prens, for the varild is no fo constant, bot the grayteft may hef ado with ane trow frind fumtyme, and I vill be gud for his trowthe and duate to 3ow. My hert fume, remember quhat I hef wretine, and be kerfull to pleis him and extend 3our credit, for I houpe 3e fall niver repent the fame. Sua I reft, and fall remene,

3our Lordfchips trow friend to  
ferff 3ow,

STORMONT.

To my weray honorabill gud Lord and  
hving fone, my Lord Vicountt off  
Anand.

\* Fourth son of John first Earl of Tullibardine. He became, upon the death of the writer of this letter, on the 27th of August 1631, by force of a special remainder in the patent of creation, second Viscount of Stormont.

## CC.—THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL TO KING JAMES VI.

JULY 15, 1623.

MOST SACRED SOUERANE,

Thair wes a complaint maid to your maiesties counfell, be the Earle of Bugeleugh, the last counfell day, proporting, that quhairas by a custome vncontrauerted, and in commoun practize betuix the twa kingdomes thir mony yeires bigane, the commissiounaris on ather fyde wer allowit, be thame fells, thair freindis or seruandis, to follow and perfew fugitiues fleeing frome the one cuntrey to the other, and to apprehend thame, and bring thame bak to thair tryall, whilk wes a speciall meane to suppress the forder growthe of thift, and wes a grite fear to lymmaris and malefactouris to offend. And that he, as one of the commissiounaris ouer the Middlethyris, haueing directit certane gentlemen, who are authorized be your maiesties warrand, in the executioun of some pointis of seruice concerning the Middlethyris, to apprehend one Johnne Hay, a commoun and notorious theif and lymmair, who wes fugitiue, and fled oute of this cuntrey to England for thift, that thay wer perfewit be a number of Sir Raulff Gray his men, houndit oute be him, the fugitiue tane of thair handis, and thay thame fells maid prissonaris, till they fand cautoun to be answerable to thair tryale in England. And he forder complenit, that whereas the lawis of this kingdome admittis summar and fauourable iustice in materis of thift and wrongis falling oute betuix the kingdomes, quhairof the subiectis on that fyde hes had goode prooffe in all thair adois presentet to the consideratioun of the iustice heir, that notwithstanding the lyke meafour of iustice is not grantit to the subiectis of this kingdome, who, when thay challenge ony of thair goodis in England, and craveis redres and restitutioun to be maid vnto thame, according to that mutuall goode forme and ordour whilk aught to be interteyneid betuix

the kingdomes, and is verie respectiuelie kepted on this fyde, that thay ar putt of and remittit to the commissionaris and iusticeis of assise in thair ordinarie circuitis; quhairthrow the growthe of thift hes a daylie progres, malefactoris vpoun hoip of impunitie ar encourageit to offend, your maiesties subiectis ar frustrat of iustice, and that goode correspondence and mutuall concurrence whilkould be intertenyed betuix your maiesties officiaris on ather fyde, for suppressing of thift and pynisheing of malefactoris is interrupted and neglectit. Whereof, at the humble requeist and desire of the said earle, we haif heirby thought meete to acquent your maiestie, to the intent that youre maiestie, in the excellencie of youre wisdome, may tak suche ordour thairin as shalbe fittest for the goode of your maiesties subiectis of bothe kingdomes. And so, with the remembrance and continewance of oure vnceffant prayeris vnto God for your maiesties lang and happie reigunn, we rest

Your Maiesties most humble and obeydent  
subiectis and seruitoris,

GEORGE HAY.  
SANCT ANDREWS.  
NITHSDAILL.

J. MAR.  
MORTON.  
GLENCAIRNE.

Haliruidhous, xv. July 1623.

To the King his most Sacred and Excellent Maiestie.

[Indorsed:]  
Counsell, concerning the E. of  
Buckleughes complaine of  
S<sup>r</sup> Ralphe Grayes people,  
15 July 1623.

CCI.—SIR JAMES BAILLIE TO THE VISCOUNT OF ANNAND.

OCTOBER 10, 1623.

MY MOST HONORABLE GOOD LORD,

Pleas your lordship, I have mett with William Dik, but hath not as yet concluded with him. I fie gif he vndertak to furnishe ellevene hundreth pundis, your lordship muft before the terme, and before he come out of Paries, give vnto his factour the vther thowfand pundis, whiche will outred my Lord Nithfildall and Bacleuch. But in this I fall be fullie refolved befor I fie your lordship and part with William Dik. I hoip to be at Roiftoun this Setterday, and fo foone as your lordship is able to gett me difpatched, I mynd to retorne homeward, both for your lordships awin caws and myne. I will not dubt but your lordship will be thinking to gett all thingis done to my contentment, for I falbe forie at my hart to fie any thing difcontent yow. I pray your lordship confer with the marques, and vnderftand his lordships mynd befor I come, and both of you enter with his maieftie anent Sir Archbald,\* to quit the iuftice clarkship for fome tyle of honour, and that I may be dealt with for my place; and be fparing to promes too muche in my name, but promes to deall with me. Do in this particular as your lordship thinkis meiteft, and I befeech your lordship have it begune befor I come, for I may not ftay on it. Gif the marques delay tyme, and gif this takis no effect, I muft pas all in Sir Archbaldis his name. Tak head that Sir Robert Douglas and his freindis mifinforme not the prince of me. Speak the Duk of Bukinghame, wha I know will fie me gett no wrong. Pleas your lordship, refave this letter frome your honourable and good ladie, whome

\* Sir Archibald Napier. This attempt to induce him to resign his pretensions to the office of Justice-Clerk was not successful, as Sir Archibald obtained the appointment (which he, however, retained a very short time) in November following. He was, in May 1627, created Lord Napier of Merchiston.

I have found at this tyme most loving and kynd. So I tak my leave to meating, and rellis

Your Lordships loving cufyne,  
to ferve yow,

JAMES BAILLIE.

Kingftreat, this 9 October 1623.

Since the wrytting heiroy, I come to the Exchange, and fpak with William Dik,\* who is content to fend down his man with me, that befor I go to Scotland thingis may be left at a certantie, and himself will wrytt to yow his awin mynd.

London, this 9 October 1623.

This morning I have feene the marques go to the Starchamber, fo that I know not what to do. I pray your lordship let me hear your lordships awin opinion, whidder I fall come downe or flay till the marques come.

This 10 of October 1623.

To my most honourable good  
Lord the Vicount of An-  
nan, theas.

[Below the Seal:]

This letter wes twys opened, ons  
for William Dik, and this morn-  
ing when I did fie the Marques  
going to the Star Chamber.

\* Afterwards Sir William Dick, and Lord Provost of Edinburgh, in 1638, 1639. He was, at one period, perhaps the most opulent merchant of his time, but subsequently he fell into difficulties, and died in poverty. There is an exceeding rare pamphlet, in small folio, containing an account of his sufferings, with three engravings by William Vaughan; in the first of which Sir William is seen mounted on horseback, with attendants, shipping, army, and a town in the back-ground. In the second, he is represented in prison, with his wife, attended by the jailor and his assistants; and in the third, he is in his coffin, with his family mourning over him. A copy of this curious volume was sold for twenty-three guineas at the sale of Sir James Lake.

## CCL.—THE VISCOUNT OF LAUDERDALE TO THE VISCOUNT OF ANNAND.

NOVEMBER 27, 1623.

MY VERIE HONORABILL GOOD LORDE AND BROTHER,

The good proof your lordship hath often given whatt place my requiests hath fund with yow makes me oftentimes more importunatie to be urged to be a footer to your lordship, nor either reafone or discrezione can fuller me to obeye. Houbeitt, at this tyme I can not refus to fecond ther entreatyes, who I knaw will be humble footers to your lordship in the behalf of my Perfone of Lauder, Mr James Burnett, whodefyreth be my Lorde of St Androes (who I knaw can not in dewtye refus anye of your lordships demandes) to be tranported to the cure of the kirke of Libbertoun, wher I am lykwayis a parishoner. The particular informatione I will remitt to his brother, your lordships fervitour, Mr Robert Burnett, who, att his last cumming home, delivered a letter of your lordship anent youre reductione against Harden, which, I shall be verie cairfull, maye goe right; and in everie thinge els, shall be readie to discharge the dewtye of

Your Lordships most affectionat brother  
to ferue yow,

LAUDERDAILL.\*

Edinburgh, 27 of Nov<sup>r</sup>. 1623.

To my verie honorabill good Lorde  
and brother, my Lorde Vicount  
of Annand.

\* John, second Lord Maitland of Thirlstane, created Viscount of Lauderdale by patent, dated at Whitehall, 2d April 1616, to him and his heirs-male and successors in the Lordship of Thirlstane, and Earl of Lauderdale by patent to him and his heirs-male, bearing the name and arms of Maitland, dated 14th March 1624. He died in January 1645, and was buried in the church of Haddington. Drummond of Hawthornden wrote an epitaph upon him. He was the father of the celebrated Duke of Lauderdale.

## CCIII.—SIR JAMES BAILLIE TO THE VISCOUNT OF ANNAND.

[NOVEMBER 1623 ?]

MY MOST HONOURABLE GOOD LORD,

Pleas your Lordship, I refaved your lordships of the 8 of this instant, wherin it appeiris your lordship hes writtene a letter to Mr Thomas, whiche your lordship thinkis fullicient to informe both Mr Robert Burnett and me, as indeid it had beene so, gif it had comit to Mr Thomas Hoips bandes, but we cannot fynd such a letter : Alwayes for the buslines of Bonitoun, I hoip we fall do the best we may, for your lordship is mutche beholdene to my Lord Chancelair, and Mr Thomas Nicolfone does his part bravelie. As for all your lordships effairis, I fall tend theme as my awin, and do theirin, I hoip, to your lordships contentment. I delyvered your lordships letter to my Lord Kinlevene prefentlie, who gave your lordship many thankis, for the fame and the letter of exchange. I culd not thawe it to my Lord of Mar als your lordship defyred, becaus it was clofed ; but I read the poffcript of your letter to his lordship, who randered your lordship many thankis, and fayd he cared not what my Lord Kinlevene wriett, for he had no juft caws. Your lordship will perfave be Robert Burnettis letter how your action goes : He missed the pakat the last week : your lordships letter is within this pakat, whiche your lordship may break vp and tak your awin : this him felf fayes. In tyme coming he will give me your lordships letter to be sent, for I know the Duk his grace is fomtyme absent. I thank your lordship that wraett to my Lord of Melroes, that I putt your lordship in mynd of his maiesties

tokene : His lordship gave me many thankis, and delyvered me theas laft letteris out of his awin hand, and fent at night to fie gif I wold wrytt any anſwer. I hear no thing of Harbart Maxwellis coming to this towne. I feir he come not at all. It merwellis me that he never wryttis his mynd to me. A greater man wold have honored me with ane anſwer of my letteris ; but your lordship is wys, and knawes how to come by your awin. Had he comit heir, I thought to have takene himſelf, his ſone, and ſone in law, bund for the fowme to Witſonday, whiche I perſave he eſhewes. Your lordship rememberis what charge his maieſtie gaſe me anent Sir Jhone Buchannan, and I wes going about to have drawene him to have gevene his maieſtie all contentment ; but I perſave the commiſſioneris of the rentis bath mett vpoun a letter of his maieſties, writtene in favouris of my Lord Chancelar, that gif they fynd it meitter to ſewe it thene to ſeek the rayſing of the tenentis, that thene my Lord Chancelar ſuld have the benefit of the fynes of the feweris for his help, and releif of his lordships dettis. I beleve the lordis hes found that the ſewing is the beſt way for his maieſtie, and that howſoever Sir Archbald Napier hes beene informed, and wold have ſtryvene to improve the rent for his maieſties profit, yit that way wes vncertane for his maieſtie and ſuccellouris ; wheras, being ſewed to the heieſt rentall, it will euer be a ſure rent heirefter to the crowne. Muche reaſouning hes beene in this, and many thinkes my Lord Chancelar not wys to tak that, I meane the fynes, for his maieſties help and revard, for the people ar poor, and hes beene rayſed to als great a rent as the land is able to pay to the lordis and earles of Orkney, and ſewe of theme will deſyre fewes, ſo that, gif his maieſtie be not gratioſus to him vtherways, he hes ſped evell. I proteſt to God, thoghe himſelf go over as he intendis, I do think he fall repent his jorney, and never mak fyve ſhillings the frank. So that, gif your lordship heir any thing of this when the commiſſioneris anſwer comes, tell your opinion to his maieſtie freeſlie, to lat his freindis their at court ſie that your lordship is his freind, and lat his maieſtie know that I forgot not his directioun in any one poynt. Sir Archbald Napier merwellis your lordship never wreatt to him his maieſties mynd concerning the Juſtice



Clerkis place;\* but I think Sir George Elphinstone is not so fure of it as is talked of heir, in respect your lordship hes never writtene. Do as your lordship thinkis good and fittest for his maiesties service. I think I gaue your lordship thankis in my last for your lordships newe yeir gwyft or tokene to my doghter Sophei, and now my wyf, who hes read your lordships letter, fendes hir most hartlie thankis with the remembrance of hir humble service to your lordships self and your noble ladie. I pray God grant that we may have yow both long to the foir. So, wilhing your lordship and hir both all happines, I remaine

Your Lordships loving Cufyne  
to serue yow,

JAMES BAILLIE.†

[No date.]

For the landis of Wamphray, and all thingis of that erand, we fall meit and do the lykeliest, and I think your lordship is of a good opinioun.

CCIV.—JOHN ASHBURNHAM TO THE LORD CHANCELLOR HAY.

APRIL 8, 1624.

RIGHT HONORABLE,

The queene, my mistress, being folicted by this bearer, James Reid, to recommend vnto your honour the confideration of his

\* Napier was appointed Lord Justice Clerk, 23d November 1623. So this letter, which is without date, must have been written shortly before that event.

† Weldon mentions Baillie, amongst other favourites of James, as getting a "*pretty*" estate, and observes, "Old servants should get some moderate estates to leave to posterity." *Secret History of Court of James I.* Edinburgh, 1811, 8vo. vol. i. p. 372.

estate, and havinge had information from his captain of his true and valiant fervice in the warrs of Bohemia and the Palatinat, herfelfe commiserating his hurts and misfortunes, hath given me the bouldnesse, in these fewe lines, to signifie as much vnto your honour, and to desire you, in her name, to shew him such favour, as shall stand with his desert and your convenience ; for which her maiestie will be readie to acknowledge the obligation at your hands, and myfelfe bound ever to remaine,

Your Honoris faithfull and humble fervant,

JO. ASSHEBURNHAM.\*

Hagve, the 8<sup>th</sup> of Aprill 1624.  
St. Novo.

To the Right Honourable Sir  
George Hay, Lord Chauncellor of Scotland, &c. at  
Edinburgh.

\* John Ashburnham has obtained an historical celebrity from having been one of the two persons by whose means Charles I. fell into the hands of his enemies after his escape from Hampton Court. Whether this was the result of accident or design, is one of those controverted points which can never be satisfactorily settled, although the presumptions are much in favour of the former supposition. His descendant, the present Earl Ashburnham, with the view of vindicating his ancestor's reputation, published in 1830, at London, in two volumes 8vo, "A Narrative of John Ashburnham—of his attendance on King Charles the First from Oxford to the Scotch Army—and from Hampton Court to the Isle of Wight. Never before printed. To which is added, A Vindication of his Character and Conduct from the misrepresentations of Lord Clarendon. By his Lineal Descendant and Present Representative." The biographers of Ashburnham seem not to have been aware of his ever having been in the service of the Queen of Bohemia. He died on the 15th of June 1671, in the 68th year of his age.

## CCV.—THE EARL OF SEAFORTH TO THE LORD CHANCELLOR.

JULY 4, [1624 ?]

MY WERE HONORABILL GOOD LORD,

The Inglish gentilman quho was recommendit heir be your lordschip, efter as he taried sum dayis with me, he thairefter vent to Lochew, and saw sick voodis as was thair, and vent to Lochcarron, and saw the voodis and sick commodities as he thocht nicht best ferue his purpose. Sick certanty as I haue gottin of him, your lordschip may perceave by theis tua letteris of his, quhilk efter as your lordschip hes considerit them, your lordschip wilbe pleasit to think on the best vay how to draw on a bargan tuixt him and me for the voodis of Lochcarron; for I mynd to keip the voodis of Lochcarron for him, since thej may best do his turne, and may mak me maist benefeit; sua that gif he cumis schortlie as he vreatis, I assuir myfelfe he will adrefs himself to your lordschip, efter quhilk tyme how far your lordschip may vork with him, your lordschip fall acquent me. Gif vther vayes he cum nocht befor the 15 or 20 of August, it will pleis your lordschip to vreat to him that he will nocht find me to bargan vith wyles he mak speid. Since this is one of the best things I haue, both to get your lordschip and me moneyis, your lordschip fall tak your avin consideration heirin quhat is fittest to be done with him. I creaw your lordschips pardoun for putting sow to this panis.

The workis that ar at Lochew, I found at Vitfunday the furnace blowin outt, and no stok provydit; sua that, quhill I may get a stok mead, I haue dismissit all the seruandis, except the saw millis, quhilk I will follow. I conduet vith George, your lordschips nephew, for to set both the furnace he vreatt till Lambes; bot things hes interveinit so to him, that the

pairt concernit me of the vorks ar to do, quhilk I pafs. He is in deilling with me for the things that ar about that loch of Lochew. Since nothing as ȝit hes taken effect, I spair to vret any thing thairanent. Gif ony thing be done, I fall haue ȝour lordschip aduertefit, quhair be that or I had ony thing ather in that of Lochew or the vther, I may be aduyfit be ȝour lordschip. This, with the remembrance of my best feruice,

ȝour Lordschips maist affectionit freind and feruant,

SEAFORTH.\*

4 Julij.

On my vay to Lochew.

Gif anie thing ȝour lordschip dois with this Inglishe man, be way of bargan tuix me and him, I fall performe the fame at his heircuming. Gif vther uayis ȝour lordschip thinks good to bring him to ane point, and to aduertife me, in that do as ȝe think best: I fall follow ȝour lordschips aduyfe. Sick letteris as beis direct to him, he defyrit George Hay to fend them to Mr Galloway, or to James Douglas. I tak vp no les nor that he and George thinks to partak togidder.

To the Right Honorabill my  
noble good Lord, my Lord  
Chancellour of Scotland.

\* Colin, second Lord Kintail, was created Earl of Seaforth by patent to him and his heirs-male, dated 3d December 1623. This letter was probably written in 1624. His brother George succeeded him in 1633, and became the second Earl.

## CCVI.—SCOTISH SUBJECTS AT DANTZIC TO KING JAMES VI.\*

AUGUST 30, 1624.

TO THE KINGIS MAIESTY OF GREAT BRITANE, &c. OUR  
GRATIOUS AND SOVERAIGNE LORD,

Your maiesties lettre, sent to ws with Hughe Mowat, your maiesties seruant, hes manifested the fatherlie cair quhilk your maiefty hes of our wiellfair, and to protect vs frome the oppreffioune of thir straungeris amang quhome we lief; and trewlie we acknowledge that his diligence with your maiesties authority hes bein very profitable to ws. Bot of lait their is ane generall edict promulgat, quhairby all straungeris (quha ar not burgeslis) ar commanded to remowe out the townis of Dantzic and Lueinbrig (althocht we knau that the executioun is onelie bended aganis these of the Scottis natione quha ar not frie), and we can coniecture no other reafone for this vnaccustomed rigour, bot the exorbitant numberis of young boyis and maidis, vnable for any seruice, transported hier gierlie, bot especially this sommer, quha baithe scandalizes the natione, and ar burdenable to ws. Hierfoir we most humble besiek your maiestie, that (by the advys of this gentillman) your maiestie wald prevent the scandall in tyme comming, and by your maiesties favorable lettres to the magistratis of this land, hinder the executioun of theis edictis, leaff we be ranked with Jewes and Infidellis; and we (as in

\* In the *Analecta Scotica*, vol. ii. p. 385, a letter is printed from Patrick Gordon, the Poet, to James VI. in which he gives a very curious account of the dissolute morals of the Scotch in Dantzic.

dewtie bund) fall pray continewallie for your maiesties lang and happie regne,

Your Maiesties most humble and distressed subiectes  
of the Scottis nationne, remaining in Dantzik and  
Lueinsbrig,

JAMES MORESONE.

JAMES RUTHVENE.

GEORGE BLEWHOUS.

WILLIAM LYNDSEY.

WILLIAM RAMSAY.

DAVID OUCHTERLONY.

THOMAS MORTIMER.

DAVID MAXWALL.

With fundrie wtheris quhais names cannot heir be contained.

Dantzik, this penult August 1624.

To the Kingis Maiesty of Great  
Britane, &c. our Gracious and  
Soveraigne Lord.

CCVII.—FRANCIS HAY\* TO THE LORD CHANCELLOR.

NOVEMBER 5, 1624.

RYCHT HONORABILL AND MY VERIE GOOD LORD,

Pleis yow receaue tuo letteris that I had out of France.  
Ane other of my Lord Ambassadouris fervantis wryttis to me, that Monfr.  
de Cheuereux wes at the Begnieux, making greatt preparatioune to  
come ouer, bot the work men ar stayit, which makis him think the  
match is not far advanced, and faves the Cardinall ruillis all, and the  
Cardinall may not offend the Pope, and the Pop must not displeas the

\* Probably the chancellor's nephew. He was a writer to the signet, and acquiring the lands of Balhousie in Perthshire, was designed by that title. Wood's Douglas, vol. ii. p. 48. From him the present Earl of Kinnoul is descended.

Deuillis bairnes, the Spainyardis. He that brocht ouer this pacquet wes dispatched that fame nicht he come, and my Lord Buckinghame, who went to London, and wes not to retorne for aucht days, come bak with this pacquet to gett ane anfuer dispatchit, as he did. The morrow we go to Newmercat, and dynes by the way in Chesterford Park. They talk of the Duik of Buckinghames going to France, and manie noblemen to go with him, as Salisburie, Montgomerie, Dorfett, and vtheris. Pray God all thingis wer in reddines for that jurney. This in haift, finding my Lord Kellie to fend away a packet. I rest,

My Lord, your Lordshippis humble fervitour,

FR. HAY.

Royflone, the 5 of Nouember 1624.

I pray your lordship remember the Nafmythis buffines, and help Andro Scott.

To the Rycht Honorabill my  
verie good Lord, my Lord  
Chancellour of Scotland.

CCVIII.—THE LORD CHANCELLOR HAY TO KING JAMES VI.

NOVEMBER 8, 1624.

MOST SACRED SOUERAINE,

Amongst vther lettres from your maiestie, whiche I cannot fo quiklie anfuer, I reslauitt this day one, bearing that your maiestie is crediblie informed that the Lord Kinclavin gave way to my businefs con-

cerning Orkenay; but your maiestie not knowing the conditiones, requyreth me to aduertife your maiestie how farre wes commoned betuix vs, and whither anye thing wes concluded, and what it wes. And whereas the said Lord of Kinclevin\* demandeth six and threttie thoufand pounds Scotts for his satisfiſſation in that matter, that your maiestie is well pleased that I find out the meanes how he may be payit or satisfieit without your maiesties hurte. The passages betuix the Lord Kinclevin and me, as I mot anſuer to God and your maiestie, ſa farre as my memorie ſerveth me, have bein theſe, and no vther.

After my returne from England in December 1623, or thairabout, he came to me in the logging I have in your maiesties pallace heir, and ſayd that he wes informed that I wes about the fewing of Orkenay, and that he culd hardlie believe that I wold ſeik the ouerthrow of his houſe. I ſaid his lordships information wes trew; but that I wes perſuaded that neuer he nor anye of his wold get that erldome nor anye ſubieſt els. He ſaid that I wold neuer mak 30<sup>m</sup> markes of that buſines (whatſoeuer hopes I had of more). I anſwered that then I ſuld have ane ill bargaine, for I doutd my chairges wold ſurmount that, befor all wer ſetled. Some other wordes he vttered, and pairted diſcontent. After that, I hard not from his lordship againe (that I remember), till the verie day I tooke my journey from Dalkeith, in Auguſt laſt, towards your ſacred maiesties court, whiche being Sunday, and I having dynd and haſtning to fermon about elleuin a cloke, to be at Lawder tymouſlie befor nicht, he cam to me in the ſtreet, and aſked if I meant to go on in the buſineſs of Orknay. I ſayd that not, and that I had left thinking anye more of it. "Nay," quod he, "ye ſhall not do ſo. I ſtopped yow, and I will

\* John Stewart, ſecond ſon of Robert Earl of Orkney, was created a Peer by the title of Lord Kinclevin, 10th Auguſt 1607. He was ſubſequently advanced to the dignity of Earl of Carrick, but although his creation was in July 1628, he was not admitted to the dignity for more than two years, owing to a doubt expreſſed by the Peers, how far the title of Carrick, which was the proper ſtyle of the Prince of Scotland, could be communicated to a ſubject. His Lordship explaining that he took the title from a place called Carrick, on his own eſtate in Orkney, and not from the Earldom in Ayrſhire, the difficulty was got over, and he was received as an Earl. He died in 1652 without male iſſue, when the titles became extinct, his Lordship leaving only one daughter, and the dignities being limited to the heirs-male of his body. In the year 1733, a notice was inſerted in one of the newspapers, that theſe honours were to be claimed by one having right to them.



worke it againe for yow." "That is more then I know" (said I), "that ye flayed it. As euer it be, I meane to deale no further in it:" And my words wer as my thoughts, for as I mot be faved, when I cam to your maiestie at Ruffod, I had no intention euer to meddle anye more with it. The rest of his wordes at that tyme he remembreth better then I, who took na great head to them, as having cast of all thinking of Orkenay. He sayde he wold wryt vp to the Erl of Annandale, who wold speak with me more particularlie. The Erl of Annandale, I think, can remember whither at anye tyme of my being thair, his lordship and I had euer anye conference anent the giving off my lands, but for the pryce. When I cam bak from England last, the Lord Kinclevin asked me if I had done anye thing anent Orkenay? I said, "Yes, more then I thoct to have done at our pairting." "Then," quod he, "ye will let me have Kinclevin and Innernytie." "That ye shall," quod I, "and als cheape as I can give them to anye man in Scotland." "Nay," quod he, "ye will let me have them frielie, and I will give yow the half of the precept I am to get from his maiestie." This to me was a motion I neuer dreamed of, and made me to reply, that I wold not give him ane aker of myne heretage for your maiesties gift to me; nor had I euer in my lyffe anye share in any vther mans gift. He insifted to make me think that his meaning at Dalkeith wes fuche, and that his lettres wrytten vp to court, procured your maiesties and the princes highnesse fauour to me in that particular, both whiche may be trew, but not to my knowlege. After this, he cam to me to Perth, and thair, passing from his former imaginarie grounds, he asked of me the pryce of my lands, whiche, because I wes desyrous to sell, and rather to him then anye vther, for his contentment, I told him at the secunde and last word, wes fourtie four thousand markis, or tuentie nyne thousand and sum odde pounds, with a discharge of a desperat det of four thousand pounds, for whiche my poore brother wes oblist to his lordship for the Laird of Clunye. He then asked me if I wold accept a precept for my payment? I sayde that I wold be loth to be a futar to the thesaurar for the pryce of my lands, but if his precept did bear to be payde be myselff off the few deutie of Orknay, I wold accept it for payment, and put his lordship in present possession of the lands. Thus we left, and at

his defyre I wret to the Erl of Annandale and Mr Maulde. If in this I erred in naming so fure and constant a pairt of your maiesties reueneue to be subiect to his precept, I crave your maiesties pardon. I know it is nather my dutie, nor hath it bein my custome, to shaw men the wayes to draw or keep moneyes out of your maiesties coffers; but having vnderflooded from your owne sacred mouth, that ye wer pleased to grant him a precept, I thocht it a point not so materiall for your maiestie out of what pairt of your rents the same wer payde, and to me, ouercharged with detts, important to be fure of payment for so good a pairt of my heretage. The tyme your maiestie wes gratioufullie pleased to grant the abatement off the fyve thousand markes of the rent to me, and to aske me what I thocht wold content the Lord of Kinclevin, I sayd to your maiestie that I believed if he culd have my land of Kinclevin and Innernytie, they wold content him; and if your maiestie wold be pleased to abate so muche of the 40<sup>m</sup> markes per annum of the rent of Orkenay, as these lands payde to me yearlie, he fuld have them. Your maiestie answered me, that ye wald diminishe the rent no more. "Then your maiestie must grant him a precept," sayd I; and so your maiestie bad me think of it: and I may lang think of it, befor I satisfie the last pairt of your maiesties lettre, willing me to find out the meanes to gett him moneyes without your maiesties hurte; for wher shall these moneyes be fund, whiche nather ar, nor shall, nor can cum into your coffers? I have bein tedious, but it is out of a defyre to answer your sacred maiesties lettre in all pointes. The summe is, that, as God is my witnes, I neuer made any condition with the Lord Kinclevin for giving any pairt of my lands, bot for payment, as to others; nor to share with him in any precept, nor till my last returne from your maiestie, did I euer conceive that his lordship had anye suche meaning anent my lands, but by way of sale. What his owne thoughts have bein he knoweth best; or what flopp he made to me first, or what way he gave last, your most sacred maiestie and your most excellent son know, not I, whom, albeit priuate difficulties have oft made ane impoortune, ane oft and happie beggar from that soueraine bountie; yet reason, conscious of my small worth and poore seruices, hath taught to acquiesce euer cheerfullie, with your good pleasure in grant or refusal (whereof I

remember few), without anye curious enquirye of the motives to the one or vther; resting ever confident, that as I serve your maiestie with as muche loyaltie, sincere zeale and affection, as euer seruant did master, your maiestie (whom God of his mereye to vs, mot long preserue in helth and all prosperitie) will neuer suffer to want, neither me nor the children of

Your most sacred Maiesties most faithfull and most  
humble seruant and creature,

GEORGE HAY.\*

Hallir. this 8 off Nou<sup>r</sup>. 1624.

[Indorfed :]

The Lord Chancellour concerning  
what past betuixte him and the Lord  
Kinleuin, 8 Nouemb. 1624.

CCIX.—THE LORD CHANCELLOR HAY TO KING JAMES VI.

[1624 ?]

My resolution to execute your maiesteis commandements is, and euer shallbe, such as ought in so meere and obliged a creature; bot becaus I know that, from that fontaine of reason which iustificieth all your

\* George Hay, second son of Peter Hay of Meginche, who was brought up to the profession of the law, was knighted and appointed Clerk Register in 1616. He was made Lord High Chancellor of Scotland, 16th July 1622, upon the death of the Earl of Dunfermline. On the 4th May 1627, he was created Viscount of Dupplin, and Lord Hay of Kinfauns, and 24th May 1633, Earl of Kinnoul. He died at London, 16th December 1634. His body was conveyed to Scotland, and interred, 19th August 1635, in Kinnoul Church, where a sumptuous monument was erected to his memory. An account of the ceremonial of his interment will be found in the "Heraldic and Historical Tracts of Sir James Balfour." Edinburgh, 1837. 12mo.

actions, your maiestie is pleased to let flow, euen to the meanest ministers, so much as may cleare thair proceedings from the blame of grosse and incongruous errors; and that, since the reslaving off your maiesties last instructions, I can by no meditation light vpon a faire formulaire of so round a discharge of all former treaties for marriage as is prescribed by the said instructions, and that, by conference with Sir Thomas Edmonds, I finde myself rather perplexed further then helped herein; I haue aduentured by these humble to intreat your maiestie to consider how (in a treatie of marriage, wherein so many propones and answers have been interchanged, reasons have been alleaged by either side; a willingness to performe hath been expressed with protestations; a dealing with the king of Spaine during the tyme of this treatie hath been furnished by many, boasted of by his ministers, and scarce denied by your maiesties; an extraordinair ambassadour hath been sent out of your bedchamber, with a warrant vnder your great seale, to treat and conclude a marriage), it fall agree with your maiesties royall procedure in all your other actions, that we begin with a discharge of all former dealing and treaties in that marriage, and that, because your maiestie dothe thinke thair last answers not to be worthy off your maiesties self and your sone.

Now, if they aske vs in what poyntes your maiestie dothe finde them unworthy or unreasonable, we must say, either that your maiestie hath not been pleased to let vs know so much, or cum to the particulars, whiche we dar not, nor may not by our instructions. And if we shall stand vpon the discharge of all former dealing, without examination off any article, zit with what faces shall we bothe discharge all former treaties, and requyre them to make new offers if thei will have any farther dealing for marriage? May they not iustlie vrge us to know what conditions will content vs, since these already made do not? Shall we reiect thair conditions offered, and propose none for your maiestie?

This seemeth to vs, and we feare shall seem to thame, a barthe and peremptorie forme off dealing in a treatie of marriage with a state and countrey to whome your maiesties loving care in appeasing these last troubles, and the expectation of alliance, hath so endeared your maiesties freindship, as hath been well testified by the concurse, welcoming accla-

mationnes and prayers for your maieftie, ſince my cumming into this land. We thinke this treatie of marriage might have been more eafie, and with leſs din, ſhaken off by him who hath delt in it hithertils ; and that I, your extraordinarie embaffadour, might thereafter have cum, and to better purpoſe have talked off the continuance and aſſurance of your maieſteis friendſhip towards this king, crowne and cuntrey, rather then with ſuche a needles ſollemnitie off ane extraordinary ambaffadour, to proclayme to ſo mightie and ſo well affected a nation a negleſt of thair alliance. Theſe things I have preſumed to repreſent vnto your maieſtie.

[Indorſed :]

Sir George Hay, Chancleour  
of Scotland, hes letter to King  
James the 6, concerning Prince  
Charles hes mariage.

CCX.—JAMES VI. TO THE LORD CHANCELLOR HAY.

JANUARY 12, 1625.

JAMES R.

Right truſtie and right veill belouett counſellour, we greit you veill. Much earniſt fuit being made to vs by the French embaffador, in the behalfe of the Roman Catholicks (as they terme them) of that our kingdome, requyring that inregaird of this mariage (wich aught to be a tyme of publique reioyſeing, vherin all perſons ought to be ſet at libertie), we vould ſhou them fauor, we wer pleaſed to ureat to the Archbiſhop of St Androus to ſu[r]ceae al troubling of them, ather by citation to compeir befor any iudgs or by excommunicatioun, till our furder pleaſur ſhould be knowen, the ſaid recufants giuing no publick offence. And therfor we haue thought guide by theſe preſentts to acquaint you with our forſaid pleaſur, to the intent that, if any buſſines fall araſſe vpon any former ex-

communication or horning for mater of religioun vich fall be brought befor our counsell, ye fall cause it be dissimied vith the leaft flure or noyse vich may be : And this recommending to your special care, we bid you fairveill. Giuen at our manour of Theoballds, the 12 day of Januarij 1625.

King James Letter to Sir George  
Hay, Chancleour, concerning  
Catholicks, 12 Januarij 1625.

CCXI.—JOHN WOLFE TO KING JAMES VI.

PLEIS YOUR MAIESTIE,

One Sires, being fervant to Maister Morgan, apothecarye to the lait queen of happie memorie, vrgeing his preferment, and disapoynted of bothe your maiesteis and the queenis service, presumeing vpoun there ignorance who did accompany your maiestie, that thay did not know what was dew to thair placeis, heirvpoun most craftelye procured himself to be fworne fergeant of the confectionarye, being a parcell of the apothecareis office, and als apothecarye for the houshold : and not heirwith contented, he did also pas a graunt of being servitour odoriferous to your maiestie, to the queenis highnes and your royall issew, being a plaice nevir hard of befor in the court of England (the very smell whereof hes bein evir onfavory vnto me), onlye vseing it as a meane by this dismembering the office to difable the possessor, and so to mak him vearye of his plaice : and heirvpoun taking hold of Clavies, your maiesteis lait apothecarye his simplicitie, by the meanis of a submissioun, and the otheris craftie dealing with the arbitouris, Clavie was maid to pairt and devyid the f :neising of wateris, perfumeis, and odouris (whiche did foley and onlye belong to him), with this other new invented servitour, who, taking boldnes vpoun this advantage, intendit to haif vsed me in lyik foirt,

I being than in service with the queenis highnes, bot being loathe to be abuised, or to loise any part of my dew privilegis of my plaice, and standing out for my right, I wes continowit in the full possessioun. Now, efter it hes pleased your maiestlie to accept me in that service, voyde by Clavies deathe, this odoriferous fellow, mistaking his smell, wald haif the continuance of that abuse in not contenting himself with the plaice of apothecarye of the hous and serieant of confectionarye, bot wald also dismember that only one place which I posses. And this fresche water fouldiour nevir preissing to come one myle abroade in all your maiestieis journays, dois nottheles challenge the perfumes, sueit wateris and odouris for your maiestieis presence, and linning, and other occasionis that ar for and inrespect of your maiestlie, and no otherwayis; he laying his full accompt that, howevir I did faive myself from being wronged in the queenis service (vnto the whiche his grant dois beir him alyik), that yit nottheles, vpoun Claveis president (whiche I aucht not to acknowledge, heaveing nevir consented thereto), his furneing in pairt of my office fall continow, and I thereby so disabled to attend, as by my veareing, he may attaine to that plaice whiche in conceate he hes already devored. Now, since the multitude of offices ar a chaarge to your maiestie, inregaird no plaice wants a feall, and that it wes weill knownen that no court in all the worlde wes so perfyite in all memberis as this courte, your maiestie may easilie conceave what wrong I refaive by this new innovatioun, which evir produces also with it some preiudice to your maiestie. And therefore, as in the tyme of my service to the queene, the craftie courtes of this fox did nothing avall him for doing vnto me any preiudice; so it may pleis your most gracious maiestie not to fuller your poore Wolfe to be any way wronged, howevir this countrey hes bein fatall to that kynd of beist, inregaird of the Prince of Waleis his tribut payed, whereby all my kinfolkes by name war maid ane end of; yit, since I was nevir no ravenous beist, and standes now in feire to be robbed, I haif no other recourse, bot to the Lyouns sacred patrocinye, humbleie entreateing that I may be continowit in the rightis of my plaice whiche ar dew thereto, that so I may be the better enabled to attend your maiestieis service. And, according to

my bound dewtie, I fall pray for your maiefties long, happie, and prosperous regnne.

Your Maiefties humble fupplicant  
and daylie fervant,

JOHNE WOLFE RUMLER,\*  
Apothecarye.

[Indorfed :]  
Mr Volfes Letter to the King.

CCXII.—SAMUEL COCKBURN TO KING JAMES VI.†

SIR,

Your facred maieftie, of your accuftomit gratius fauor, ordenarie extendit towards all your faithfull fubiectis, whereof in my awne particuler I haue had fo manie testemones, will excufe my bauldnes at this tym, forfit be fome neceffitie, if I prefume to interrupt your maiefties more ferius

\* "John Wolfgango Rumlero was, in 1617, the King's principal apothecary, and received for his fee, by the year, L.40, as appears by the abstract of his Majesty's revenue, attached to Truth brought to Light by Time." Nichols's *Progresses of King James*, vol. iv. p. 721. In the Epilogue to Ben Jonson's *Masque of the Metamorphosed Gipsies*, 1621, it is said—

"But, lest it prove like wonder to the sight,  
To see a gipsey, as an Æthiop white,  
Know, that what dy'd our faces was an ointment  
Made and laid on by Master Woolfe's appointment,  
The court Lycanthropos."

Gifford's Ben Jonson. London, 1816. 8vo. vol. vii. p. 424.

† As there are no dates to the Papers that follow, and as some difficulty consequently occurs in the arrangement, it was judged best to place them at the end of the volume.



and weghtie effeaes, with the reading of this my humble petitione. Your maiestie, of your gratius and princelie liberalitie, for my great peans bestowet in your maiefties seruice heir in this cuntrie, and dyuers voyages to your court, grantit wnto me a gift of the escheatis of all such as wer put to the horne for not confirming of testamentis; wherewith the bihops, finding themselues somewhat interest in there particuler, dealt with your maiestie for the benefeit thereof, and with me for my good will, which whan I knew to be agreeable to your maiefties plesur, wpon some conditions, I yealdit wnto. But now of leat, when the bihops wer about to haue there gift confirmit be your maiefties counfel and officers of your fleet in this kingdome, thay fand the mater of such importance, and so preiudiciall to your maiesties regal authoritie and puir heir, that in no ways could there graue wifdoms be mouet to assent therto, but to signifie the importance and weght of that buisines to your maiefties selfe to determine therevpon: Wherby the houp of that recompence of my seruice is altogider takin from me, and I compeled to haue recourse to your maiefties princelie and gratius fauor. It hes plesit your sacred maiestie to imploy me in some charges heir of great peane and trauel, without any profite, and subiect to the enuye of the greatest, which notwithstanding, in respect of your maiefties seruice, I did neuer regerd. I take your maiefties whol counfel to record of my behauiour and peans in dischargin therof: And my esteat wer such as might wnderly this burdin without my wter overthro, I would be forie to importune your gratius maiestie, and principallie at such a tym. And so, referring the trew report heirof to your maiefties graue and wyfe counfel, your maiefties trefurer deputie, who knawes the whol fleet and counfells mynd therin, I in al humilitie, with my earnest prayer for your sacred maiestie and royel esteat, shal euer remane

Your sacred Maiefties most loyel  
and faithful subiect,

SAMUEL COKBURNE.

To the King his sacred Maiestie.

CCXIII.—WITNESSIS PRODUCEIT BE ALEXANDER INNES OF COITTIS  
AGAINES THE LAIRD OF BALVANE AND HIS BROTHER.

MAISTER JAMES GUTHRIE, Minister at Vrqhart, sworne, and demandit quhat he knawis anent the libell; deponis, that he wes defyreit be the good man of Cokstoun and the goodeman of Coittis, to go with thame to the tryft appoyntit to be keipit at Haltoun the day libellit, and to bring with him the testament of vnquhile James Innes of Haltoun, for sieing the goodis mentionat thairin compryfit; and accordinglie Alexander Innes of Coittis come to the deponneris houe the day lybellit, and tooke the deponner with him to the tryft. Alexander Innes, bruther to Balvany, come thair about the evining, and saluted the haill perfones at the tryft, and conferrit a litle with William Innes of Coittis, and thairefter pretending that he wald ryde that nycht to Elgin, the goodeman of Cokstoun invited him to stay with him; who ansuerit he wald not stay, and raid away, as it feamed to the deponner towardis Elgin, and wes not fene agane, quhill he was fene in company with his bruther at the fact lybellit: And as the guidman of Coittis, the deponner and Andro Innes wer ryding hame by Vrqhart to the Coittis, thay mett in the way the goodeman of Letterfourie, who, after some litle priuat conference with the goodeman of Coittis, tauld him that in the way he saw some aught or nyne horfse in the mure, whome he thocht to haue bene his young cheif, the Lord Gordoun; and he preassing to haue riddin to thame, and adressing himself towardis thame, thay eschewit him and fled, as not willing to be fene: And with this, Letterfourie takis goodenycht and raid towardis Elgin, and the goodeman of Coittis and the deponner rydding the bie way home to thair housse, thay tooke vp thir horfse in the mure, who come fordwart taking the way, as it feamed, to Vrqhart, and not directlie to thame; quhilk quhen the goodeman of Coittis persauceit, he said to the deponner, "It is some folkis of Geycht going to my houe:" My wyff wes ay vntymous to haif left her houe in mercat tyme; and then thay baueing tint fight of thir horfemen, throw

occasioun of a litle howe in the way, at thair first kytheing agane vpoun the light, within a litle speace afoir the deponner, thay kait thair clokis frome thame, and drew thair swordis, and come galloping towardis the said Alexander Innes of Coittis, quhilk, quhen he persaved, he said, "It is some vnfreindis." The deponner answairit that thay wer mistaken, for thair wes no vnloughfull persone heir; and Andro Innes said, "I trow yow fall find thame vnfreindis:" And quhen thay come neir, the deponner knew nane of them bot Balvennie himselff and his bruther Alexander; bot one who callit himselff George Cuming, saying his mother wes a Innes, advanceit foirneft, and he strooke at the goodman of Coittis, bidding him be tane; and the goodman lightand, drew his sword, and rebaitting the first straik, wes hurt with his awne sword a litle aboue the ey, to the effusioun of his bloode; and the haill remanent persones come fordwart and strooke at the goodman of Coittis, bot thair swordis lighted vpoun George Cumingis sword, sua that it appeirit to the deponner thay haid not a purpos to slay him. Then the deponner turneing and abyding with Balvanie, quho had his sword lykewayes drawne, bot strooke not, the deponner said to Balvanie, "Allace, Sir, that yow fould behald this, for thair wes other thingis lippynnit of yow in the country." Balvanie answairit, "Yow ar a man that feares God, Maister James: I haue borne more of that companyoun nor flesche and bloode could degeist:" And Balvanie turneing to Coittis, said, "Thou haid no mynd of this, quhen after the bishoppis coppis, in thy drukinnes thou said, thou wes als goode as myself; quhairin thou leis, and may not compair with me." Coittis answerit, he spak not these wordis in that sence and meaneing. Balvanie thairafter commandit him to sitt doun on his knees, and ask him forgifnes; quhilk Coittis flowlie and smoothlie, with some discontenment, did. And depones, he knawis not how the goodman of Coittis sword wes takin frome him, or restoirit to him, in respect of his contenowall instance with Balvanie; and depones, that Balvanie, at the inputting of his sword, and calmeing of thir thingis, spak thir wordis to the goodman of Coittis, "Sie, Coittis, as thou wilbe answairabill to thy wyff and bairnes, vpoun the perrell of thy lyff, that thair be no moir din of thir thingis:" Quhairvnto Coittis answairit this only, "Thair is ouer many behalderis sua to do."

And depones, that afoir Balvany finderit frome Coittis, the said Alexander Innes, Balvanyes bruther, haueing his drawne sword shauking ouer Coittis head, said to the laird his brother, "Alaice, Sir, gif ye wer away;" unto whome the deponner ansuerit, "Thair hes bene ouer meikle of this alreddy."

Andro Innes, in the barne yaird of Innes, fworne and examinat, deponis, conformis primo testi in omnibus, addende that he threw the goodeman of Coittis sword oute of Alexander Innes brother to the Laird of Balvany his hand.

[Indorfed:]

Mr James Gutheries depositions  
in the caufe betwixte Baluanie  
and Cotes.

CCXIV.—INFORMATIOUN FOR THE ADWOCATTIS AND REMANENT MEMBERS OF THE SESSIOUN TUICHING THAIR PRIUILEDGES.

FIRST, The Sessioun and College of Justice ar exemit fra all taxatiounes in the erectioun thairof in anno 1537.

And quhair it may be obiectit that thair is na mentioun thairin of Aduocattis Clerkis, and Wrytteris, it is ansuerit thairto, that the Sessioun and College of Justice most comprehend thairin all memberis, becaus the said exemptioun man be vnderstoud according to the sents, and not according to the letter; vtherwayes the same exemptioun falbe altogidder perfonall, becaus it speikis allenarlie of the Lordis of Sessioun that then wer, and dois not extend verbalie to thair successouris, quhilk wer absurd.

Item, The absurditie of the said first act is cleirit be the subsequnt

aēt of parliament, quhilk ratifies the saidis priuilegis, and declairis the same to have bene gevin to the College of Justice and memberis, for the quhilk we haif xiii or xiiij actis of parliament.

Item, Our saidis priuilegis ar cleirit be our lang and peaceable possesioun be the space of lxxx yeires; quhilk possesioun is proven be the buikis and registeris of the comptis of the taxatiounes subscrivit be the commissiounaris of parliament, and be the decreittis and sentences gevin baith befor commissiounaris of parliament and Lordis of Sessioun, quhair we ar fund to be exemit fra all taxatiounes.

Item, His maiestie hes remowit all doubt quhilk may be obiectit to our priuileges, in sa far, in August 1588, quhen the realme and the religioun was threatnit be the Spanzeardis, his heires did not vrge ws to pay taxatioun, bot did gratioullie except of ws, ane voluntar and frie contributioun than offerit be ws to his maiestie, being sitting in ane sessioun in prefens of the haill lordis; quhilk acceptatioun is registrat in the buik of statutis of the College of Justice.

Item, Albeit we wer not able to schaw ane exprefs grant of our priuileges, maid at the erectioun of the College of Justice; ȝit our possesioun be the self is sufficient to mentene ws; becaus be speciall aēt of parliament maid in Junij 1594, his maiellie and estaitis hes ratifiet our priuileges maid to the memberis of the College of Justice, not onlie as the same ar contenit in the erectioun thairrof, bot also as the same hes bene brukit and posselt be ws senfyne; sua that our possesioun vith this aēt gevis ws ane full priuilege.

Item, His maiestie hes declarit ws to be exemit fra all contributioun of taxatiounes with the burrowis, quhairof we haif ane speciall aēt in Junij 1592, cap. 15, 3; be the quhilk aēt, his maiestie and estaitis, considering that the taxatiounes vpon the realme wer multiplied, and the burrowis haulie burdenit, and thairfoir hes statut and ordanit that all inhabitantis within burrowis fall contribut to taxatiounes for thair releiff; bot that,

with this expres declaratioun, that the fame fall nawayes prejudge the memberis of the College of Justice thair priuiledges and immunities grantit to thame, or quhairof they haif bene in vse in tyme bygane, and giue we be frie fra all contributioun of taxatioun with the burrowis (as we ar be this aēt), we man alfo be frie from the rest, feing we haif bene in possēssioun alyk of baithē; and it wer ane absurd thing to mantene that we wer exemit from ane pairt, and not from the rest, that is to fay, baith exemit and not exemit.

Item, The ordour of taxatioun in speciall aēt of parliament, maid in December 1595, fett down and declairit be his maiestie and estaitis. In the quhilk aēt, the memberis of the College of Justice ar declarit to be priuilegit and exemit, and als his maiestie hes thairby declarit his gracious will and mynd that he intendis not to hurt priuileges dirogat nor prejudgit, and thairfor, feing his maiestie being present amangis ws, wes gratiouflic pleisit to mantene our priuileges, it war ane hard preparatiue to infringe them now in his hienes abfens.

Item, We ar certanlie informit that it is [his] hienes will, that no man nor perfonis be hurt or prejudgit in thair priuileges, bot that all be movit and persuadit to contribute at this tyme, in respect of the weichtines and necessitie of the caus; quhilk we, to signifie our affectiounes to his maiestie, ar most willing to do, our priuileges being referuit.\*

Item, It is humlie defyrit that the estaitis considder how dangerous it is to begin notatioun, and to quarrell mens priuileges and preferiptioun heirof be fourfcoir yeires possēssioun, for omissioun of ane word, for this thairefter may be drawin to thair awin priuiledgis, feing thair ar fundrie priuileges pertening to ilk ane of the estaitis feueralie, and to them all in generall, quhilk hes no warrand be writt or law, bot only lenis to custome and preferiptioun of tyme; and thairfor it is defyrit, that they on na wayes gif thair consent nor writt be this notatioun.

\* This probab'y refers to the contribution for the Palatinate.

CCXV.—THE ACCOMPT OF MY DILIGENS IN THE SERVICE COMMITTED  
TO MEE, WITH A MOTION COMMENDED TO HIS MAIESTIE FROM HIS  
EMBASSADOUR AT THE HAGHE.\*

AFTER my dispatche at Beauer Castle, I did with all diligens adresse myfelfe to the Lowe Cuntries, where, within foure dayes after I did ar-

\* This singularly valuable paper contains a narrative, by Patrick Scot, of his expedition to Holland, in order to secure, if not assassinate, David Calderwood, the Church Historian, who fled there to escape the vengeance of James VI., which had been roused against him, as author of the "Perth Assembly, containing —1. The proceedings thereof. 2. The proof of the nullitie thereof. 3. Reasons presented theretu against the receiving the five new Articles imposed. 4. The oppositenesse of it to the proceedings and oath of the whole state of the land, an. 1581. 5. Proofs of the unlawfulness of the said five Articles, viz.—1. Kneeling in the act of receiving the Lord's supper. 2. Holy daies. 3. Bishopping. 4. Private Baptisme. 5. Private Communion." 1619. 4to. Calderwood having been carefully concealed, his death was rumoured, and Scot thought this an admirable opportunity for gratifying his Majesty, and vexing the refractory clergy, by forging a recantation, which was skilfully done, in a work with the following title:—"Calderwood's Recantation, or a Tripartite Discourse, directed to such of the Ministerie and others in Scotland, that refuse Conformitie to the Ordinances of the Church. Wherein the causes and bad effects of such Separation, the legall proceedings against the refractarie, and nullitie of their cause, are softly launcea, and they lovingly invited to the Uniformitie of the Church. Epist. Iam. cap. 3: Vbi Zelus et Contentio, ibi Inconstantia et omne opus prauum. London, printed by Bernard Alsop, dwelling in Distaffe Lane, at the signe of the Dolphin, 1622." 4to. The introductory notice is dated "Amsterdam, this 29th of Nouember 1622," and the general appearance of the work was such as to induce a belief of its reality. Unfortunately for this conspiracy against his fair fame, Calderwood was alive and able to expose it, which he lost no time in doing.

The following account of the matter is from his Church History (MS. Advocates' Library), vol. xv. p. 1209:—"Patrick Scot, a landed gentleman, beside Falkland, having waisted the money that he had, had no other meanes to recover his estate, but by some unlawful shift at court. He set furth a Recantation under the name of a banished minister, Mr David Calderwood, but soon after came furth a Latine worke intituled *Altare Damascenum*, which testified to the world, that he was farre from minding any recantation, and that he was yett living: for the Recantatione was sett furth upon a report that he was dead. The truth is, he was deadly sicke, and if he had died, the Recantatione had gone for current as his. But the devise turned to the shame of the devisers; he confessed himself, that the King furnished him matter, and he set it down in forme. This course failing, he went over to Holland—sought the said Mr David at the Hague, at Delf, at Amsterdam, and other towns, in the moneth of November; pretending to such as he thought favoured the said Mr David, that he had a thousand pounds to deliver to him, which was collected among well affected people at home; and offered money to some to reveal where the said Mr David was. Noe doubt the man was employed to seeke his life, and murder him privatly; which was easie for him to doe, if he had been there under cloud of night, when the said Mr David was to come from the Scottish iune to his owne chamber,

ryue, findinge by my intelligens at Roterodam, that the perfon after whome I enqyred was latelie remoued, I came to the Haghe, where I deliuered his majesties letter to the embaffadour, with that which was referred to my relation, which hee verie dutifully receaued, and promifed his beft indeuouris to further this feruice, tellinge mee there was a yeare and more paff, fince vpon viewe of that paities labouris, his eie had bine vpon him; but (lyke a foxe when hee offendeth) hee had learned a tricke to keepe himfelfe obfeure or out of the way.

The Embaffadouris aduylfe was (for fhunninge of difcouery), that before any motion were made to the States, I fhould labour by all meanes to learne the certaintie of his refidens; foe, refoluinge vpon the fitteft places and perfons by whome intelligens might be had, I did returne backe to Campheare, from that to Dort, from thence to Roterodam, and then to Leyden; in all which places I learned hee had bine, but could find noe prefent certantie of him.

either by shooting him in the water, or otherwise, not fearing evill of the man he had never seen before. After he had stayed at Amsterdam seventy days, and inquired diligently, he was informed that the said Mr David was at home in his own native countrie of Scotland; and soe he returned to court disappointed. His dependence, for the most part, was upon the Viscount of Annan, a man unknown likewise to the said Mr David, be whom he was wounded out." See also the learned biographical account of Calderwood, in the last edition of the *Encyclopædia Britannica*.

The following anecdote of Scot is given at length, by Calderwood, in his MS. history. —An Englishman had bought a piece of land, and promised to pay part of the price on a certain day. When the time came, he could not raise the money, and he was threatened with 'the extremity of the law.' He went to London, and walking in Paul's church, and pensive, made his own mone to a Scotishe man walking there, and 'offered him a reward if he could procure the King's protection.' The Scotch man replied that he had no court influence, but observing Scot, who probably had been dining with Duke Humphrey, he said, 'I see one walking hard by, his name is Mr Scot, he can doe your turne.' An introduction followed—Scot demanded fifty pounds for his patronage, but took thirty, and the Englishman's horse worth five pounds, giving him 'a packald, as it were of letters sealed,' to be delivered to the persons to whom they were addressed. Alas, these missives were as deceptive as his satanic majesty's coin, for when opened by the individuals to whom they were presented, there was nothing inside. As a fitting termination to this adventure, the poor applicant for royal protection was cast into prison. Of course, this story coming from the pen of an enemy must be received with caution, but we much fear that the moral principles of the fabricator of "Calderwood's Recantation" would not operate as any bar to his defrauding the poor Englishman of his money.

"After the death of King James, he sett out a pamphlet full of lies, intituled 'Vox Vera,' but as true as Lucian's *Vera Historia*. For all his godlesse and unlawfull shiftis, he died soon after, soe poor, that he had not wherewith to bear the charges of his buriall, but it behoved the Bishope of Ross to bear the chargeis of it, for the good service he had done to the King and the Bishops."



At laſt (after twentie dayes were thus conſumed) I repaired to Vterecht, where Mr. Scot that wrote *Vox Populi*\* dothe remaine, with whome I did foe infinuat myſelfe, that within twoe dayes hee did tell mee, that my freind whome I ſaid I was deſirous to ſee was at Amſterdam, but (as the embaſſadour had ſaid before) hee thought hee ſhould be hardlie inquyred after; yet did hee direct mee to an inne keeper, to a booke feller, and to a printer, of his acquaintance, ſome of whome (hee ſaid) might perhappes bringe mee to the knowledge of the man whome I deſired to ſee.

At my cominge to Amſterdam, and three dayes conuerſinge with thoſe to whome Mr Scot directed mee, I did learne that the partie was in toun; yet by noe meanes durſt I reueale myſelfe further to them (they beinge flricke Puritans), then that I had hard much good of the man, and was deſyrous to ſee and haue ſome of his workes. The booke feller told mee, that one John Hamleton, a religious merchaunt of Edenboroughe, had tranſported the moſt part of them to Scotland this laſt yeare; yet at night he promiſed to goe to a freind that had the felling of the remanent, wherby I coniectured that it was the author that had bothe the keepinge and felling of thoſe bookes, foe I did carefullie watehe the booke feller's oute goinge at night, whoe did goe directlie to the printer's houſe, where the parties reſidens is, as before I had learned from dyuers perſons by infalible circumſtances. When I had done this, I returned to the embaſſadour, told him I had found the parties reſidens, and deſired that hee would be pleaſed to procure the States warrant, and I ſhould doe my beſt to enforce the printer's houſe, and ſeaſe vpon his ghuelt.

The embaſſadour aunſwered, that he would willinglie moue the States to this effect, but hee much feared that the motion might marre the buſines, inregard the partie was kept foe cloſe amongſt thoſe of his owen profeſſion, and that it was to be doubted that ſome amongſt the States, without whome he could get noo warrant, were his ſpeciall freinds, and would aduertife him before anie warrant could be ſerued. Secondlie,

\* *Vox Populi*, or *Newes from Spaine*. 1620, 4to. By Thomas Scot. He was author of numerous political tracts, of which there was a very complete collection in the Gordonſton Library, ſold in March 1816.

The embassadour told mee there was another motion in hand (wherofe Mr. Johne Forbes was directed to giue his maiestie information), that might in short time procure a generall warrant from the States for apprehension of all delinquents of this nature, withoute suspition of aime at any particular person.

For these reasons, hee thought good to let the motion I defyred sleepe till his maiestie were aduertised of the commeniencie of the other.

Becaus sicknes and the roughnes of this winter season did lett Mr. John Forbes from vndertakinge iornay towards England, as hee intended, the embassadour did thinke fitt that I should supplie Mr. John his place in preferringe these instructions to his maiesties consideration, which I should haue, and his letter to this purpose. When I had receaued his letter, conceaued the instructions, and gotten direction to Mr. John Forbes to giue me particular information of the former proceedings, I tooke my leaue, and came to Delphe, where Mr. John Forbes did deliuer mee the substance of the ensuing motion.

#### THE MOTION.

Vpon a ferious consideration of the loosenes of lyfe, and scandalus behauiour of manie bothe Englishe and Scots ministers resident in the Vnited Provinces, and more frequent resort of others then before, the Dutche ministers, oute of their care to haue suche scandalus presidents in the Church repressed, were content to ioyne with the Englishe and Scots ministrie, in petitioninge vnto the States, that an act from them might be established, authorizinge them to reforme suche abuses wherofe they did complaine, and depose from the ministrie all such as should be found faultie in lyfe or doctrine, or that did prejudice the vnitie of the Church and dignitie of their cuntry, by preachinge, wrytinge, or anie other meanes, then their profession and good order would allowe. This correspondens of the Dutche Church was soe well lyked by the best sort of the Englishe and Scots ministers, that furthwith they appointed Mr. John Forbes to deale with the rest of the ministrie to assemble at the

Haghe, where, by assistance of his maiesties embassadour, they might concurre for the aduancement of soe necessarie a motion; which accordingly Mr. John Forbes performed, in assembling aswell the Dutche as Englishe and Scots ministers at the Haghe.

But at their first meetinge the motion was obuiat by a proposition (as it appeared sinisterlie thrust in) made by one Mr. Allexander Mackduffe, minister at Camphere, whose desired in his maiesties behalfe, that there might be a constant moderatour chosen, and that three, at least twoe, names might be sett downe and sent to his maiestie, that hee might make choyce of one of them.

This proposition was so distastfull to the Dutche Church, that they presently broke vpp, and refused to ioyne anie further in that motion, which they did conceaue directlie tended to the erection of bishops: Yet the most part of the Englishe and Scots ministrie did conclude for giuinge his maiestie all possible satisfaction on their parts, that Mr. John Forbes should be sent to England to giue true information of the conueniencie of the first course, and to supplicat his royall approbation and assistance, that it may goe one as it was first propounded, for three speciall reasons:—

1. Reason.—First, It will curbe all lewde, insolent, or vnqualified persons, that daylie, without order, intrude themselves in the ministrie, and liue lyke libertins, without makinge consciens of their profession, to the disgrace of the Church, and reproache of their cuntry.

2. Reason.—Secondlie, If this beginninge had once taken effect, it wilbe a speciall meanes to repress aswell the insolent writtings of fugitives, reformers, or residents, as the scismes that daylie sale oute heare, which cannot but vnquyet bothe Church and State at home.

3. Reason.—Thirdlie, His maiesties approbation and assistance of this motion, will vindicat him from those ieałosies which the Dutche Church (prompted with some ill affected persons) conceaue that his maiesties intention is to bringe in Episcopall government amongst them, if not Po-

pisme itself: Of the first their cuntry is not capable, church revenues being destitute to other publick uses, and irrecoverable; and the other they cannot bear named with patients.

This is the summe of that which the Embassador and Mr. John Forbes by his direction did deliver unto mee, both seriously regrating the misdeemeanours of such whose disloyall labours are daylie vented, to the greefe of every good subject.

Thus, after long stay at Flushing, and foure repulses by contrary winds, am I returned, referring the premises, with such other observations as I have sett downe apart, to his majesties royall consideration.

#### THREE SHORT OBSERVATIONS.

1. First, I observe, that the correspondents betwix the Puritans of Scotland and those of the Lowe Countries, dothe rather increase than diminish, whereby it faileth oute, that by communitie of Puritan seminaries, and correspondents from Scotland, the most part of his majesties subjects inhabiting in the Lowe Countries, are not onelie addicted to Puritanisme, readie to intertaine the badest impressions of their owne state, but to cherishe aswell sedition, libellis, and rebellious notions, as the authors thereof.

2. Secondlie, I find that the contempt of bishops, and the writinge both against their persons and government, is much applauded in the United Provinces, which cometh (as I conceive) thorough the neglect of correspondents, whereof they have litle or none either to advance their well, or oppose their prejudice.

3. Thirdlie, I have learned that the cause of the communitie of forbidden bookes, both heere and in the Lowe Countries, proceedeth from the correspondents that is kept betwix the printers and stationers in England, Scotland, and there. If there be heere a copy that cannot be printed without danger, it is conveyed to Amsterdam, where it is faillie printed,

returned, and fould at a tenn-fould deerer rate then anie other booke whatfoener. I haue diligentlie marked this abuse, and I do werelie thinke that without stricke animaduertion, it will rather increafe then become lesse.

[Indorfed :]

Patricke Scott,  
his Account of his Diligens.\*

\* A letter from Sir Dudley Carleton, Ambassador to the States, relative to Patrick Scot's transactions in Holland, and addressed to James VI. is printed in the *Analecta Scotica*, vol. ii. p. 433. Scot complains that he beheld, in Holland, every "Bookseller's shop and most Pedlars' stalls loaden with the Nullitie of *Perthe's* Assembly, the Altar of *Damascus*, the Dialogue betwixt *Theophilus* and *Cosmophilus*, the Speech of the Church of Scotland to her Beloued Children, and the Course of Conformatie joyned with all these (seuerally printed before), reprinted in one volume, and to be sold at no lesse a rate then if they had been oracles of *Apollo*." See "Vox Vera, or Observations from Amsterdam, examining the late insolencies of some Pseudo-Puritanes, seperatists from the church of Great Brittain, and closed vp with a serious three-fold advertisement for the generall vse of euery good subiect within his Maiesties dominions, but more especially of those in the kingdome of Scotland." London, 1625, 4to. p. 3. It is dedicated to King Charles I. He was also probably the author of "A Table-Book for Princes, containing Short Remembrances for the Government of Themselves and their Empire," &c. London, 1621. 12mo; a copy of which is No. 2095 of the Gordonston Catalogue.

The Altar of Damascus, above mentioned, was the English edition, now very scarce, which was subsequently enlarged, translated into Latin, and published, first, in 1623 (no place), and secondly, "Lugd.-Bat. 1708," both in 4to. At the end of the English work is the following very curious paragraph, in which the venerable primate of Scotland is spoken of in terms by no means flattering:—"Bishop Spotswood hath spread a rumour, that M. David Calderwood is turned Brownist; but I assure thee, good reader, it is not true. That old impudent lyar hath, together with his supposed authour, a young man, trimmed up a tale with many circumstances, to make the misreport the more credible. But if ever he required by letter, the judgement, either of that supposed authour, or of any other man else, anent their opinions, then let him never be reputed for an honest man hereafter. If he had doubted, he would not have sought resolution from yong schollers, and unsettled brains. The ground being false, all the rest of the circumstances builded upon it are knavish forgeries also. If either Spotswood, or his supposed authour, persist in their calummie after this declaration, I shall try if there be any bloud in their forehead."

It is, perhaps, almost unnecessary to add, that the "young man" is evidently intended for Patrick Scot.



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